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THE TIMES

Iran threatens customers who switch to cheaper oil

The two-tier pricing structure by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries may lead to cuts in oil sales for the 11 members who raised prices by 10 per cent. Iran, one of the 11, faced with a 10 per cent cut is threatening to put customers on a black list if they do not keep to their buying quotas.

Black list warning to 25 buyers

By Roger Vielvoe Energy Correspondent

Iran, one of the 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) who decided to increase oil prices by 10 per cent from January 1, is in danger of losing one tenth of its expected oil sales this year because of a cut in the requirements of 25 customers.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said yesterday in a statement from Teheran that this was due to undercutting by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the two Opec members which fought for a 5 per cent price increase at last month's meeting in Doha.

But NIOC gave a warning that customers who did not meet their purchase contracts would be put on an Opec black list and the Iranian Government would take any action it deemed necessary.

Iran is the second of the price hawk to face a cut in oil production as its customers switch to cheaper supplies from Saudi Arabia and the UAE. On Tuesday, Mr Abdul Mutalleh al-Kazemi, Kuwait's oil minister, said a number of buyers had asked for reduced quantities of crude oil this year.

There was speculation that pressure of this kind might lead to bigger discounts and other forms of unofficial price cutting among the 11 as the difficulties of working a two-tiered pricing structure became apparent. It would be difficult to work such a system unless the members of the 11 agreed among themselves to cut production by more than the amount Saudi Arabia and the UAE increased their output.

There were also suggestions that pressure on countries who put up their prices by 10 per cent could lead to early demands for an emergency meeting of the organization to thrash out a pricing compromise.

Continued on page 2, col 3

One dead and 54 hurt as school buses and a coal lorry crash

A man died and 54 people, most of them children, were injured in a crash in which a coal lorry rolled over and the side of a school bus was ripped open, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, yesterday.

The man who died was the driver of the lorry, Mr Matthew Garland, aged 34, of White Road, Staveley, Derbyshire, who was trapped in his vehicle.

A second school bus was involved. Both were taking children from the colliery villages of Bilston and Eakring to their comprehensive school at Rainworth, about five miles from Mansfield, for the start of the new term.

The crash occurred at Python Hill, Rainworth, and the police said it might have been caused by the greasy road surface. Three miles of the A617 was blocked for nearly six hours, and heavy lifting gear was called to clear the wreckage.

Sixteen children and one of the bus drivers were still in hospital last night.

Two of the children were in the intensive care unit at Mansfield General Hospital. They are Evelyn Shepperson, of Saville Road, and Kevin Henson, of Church Street, both Bilston. The driver, Mr Albert Elliot, of New Street, Huthwaite, Nottinghamshire, was seriously injured.

A hundred children were travelling in the two double-decker buses. Firemen worked to free some of them from the wreckage while doctors gave pain-killing drugs. A public house was turned into a temporary hospital.

A senior policeman said: "The scene was like a battlefield. Children were wandering across fields in a state of shock." Mr Brian Wilde, an ambulance officer from Mansfield,

Photograph, page 3

Talks on pit retirement in difficulties

Talks on the miners' claim for early retirement have run into difficulties. Miners' leaders were told by the coal board that the Government would not provide money to allow pitmen to retire before the state retirement age. But the coal board made its improved offer which would allow retirement phased down to 60 by 1980 after 20 years' service underground, with a starting date when the incomes policy ended. There will be further talks today.

Page 2

New safety check on lift system

The use of 73 so-called Paternoster lift installations in Britain that have not had new safety devices built into their systems by next September will be prohibited, the Health and Safety Executive said. Stringent checks are also to be made on the lifts every six months instead of once a year.

England seem certain to win the second Test match today in Calcutta and take a 2-0 lead in the series. India's batting failed on a crumbling wicket for the second time. India reached 145 for seven wickets in their second innings and still need 21 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

John Woodcock, page 6

Dearer car cover

General Accident, the largest United Kingdom motor insurer with more than one million policies, is to increase premiums on private cars by 12 per cent and on commercial vehicles by 14 per cent from February 1. Page 15

Economic block

Resolutions on the agenda for a conference of the National and Local Government Officers' Association reflect mounting opposition in the union movement to the Government's economic policies.

Page 4

Australians sending Britain bill for buried nuclear waste

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Australia is to ask the British Government to recommend and pay for long-term safety measures to protect 800 tonnes of radioactive waste, left over from weapons testing, and buried at three sites in Australia.

The request from the Australian Government does not satisfy some anti-nuclear groups who are pressing for removal of the waste to Britain.

The material originates from

military work by the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, when it was part of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

A request for records of all the material is being made by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, South Australia, and by other agencies as a matter of urgency. They want strict

monitoring procedures introduced in the storage areas.

According to the Foreign Office in London yesterday, the Australians know all there is to know about the waste already and only last month had checked to see they had the right information.

The extent of the waste disposal operations is beginning to emerge from investigations by a network of regional environmental centres set up by the Australian Government. On the mistaken belief that some of the wastes are by-products of British nuclear power stations, the more anxious anti-nuclear groups are demanding that it be

returned to Britain.

Much of the misunderstanding comes from secrecy over defence matters. Nevertheless, the waste accumulation associated with weapons tests has been buried at Monte Bello, Emu and Maralinga. A plea for more information has been made by scientific, conservation and environmental groups who have also formed a "uranium moratorium" movement.

Mr Frank Muller, a member of the Regional Environmental Centre in New South Wales, and a representative of the moratorium group, said yesterday that a five-year moratorium would give time to debate the

issue publicly and to assess improvements in waste disposal, new safeguards for the non-proliferation of weapons material and other issues causing anxiety.

The campaign, he said, was being extended through environmental and conservation organisations to halt shipments of 9,000 tonnes of uranium over the next few years for United States, West German and Japanese nuclear power stations.

Proposals to open new uranium mines in Australia, which would increase the country's dominance as a supplier of this ore, were also being opposed.

Sickness 'link with farm chemical'

From Jane E. Brody
New York, Jan 5

A medical study of more than 1,000 people living in Michigan found that nearly one in three were suffering ill-health effects possibly caused by a toxic chemical that accidentally contaminated the state's farm produce in 1973.

The chemical, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), used in manufacture as a fire retardant, was accidentally mixed in animal feed, which was widely distributed in Michigan.

Preliminary findings of the study by a New York medical team were presented this week to Governor William Milliken of Michigan. The findings are in sharp contrast to those of the Michigan Department of Health study of PBB-exposed farm families in 1974, which found no signs of ill-health related to the chemical.

Dr Irving Selikoff of Mount Sinai Medical Centre, the head of the New York team, urged immediate intensive follow-up studies both to clarify the effects of PBB on people and to find a drug that would speed elimination of the chemical from the body.

Governor Milliken told a news conference in Lansing yesterday that he would ask the state's health department to review Dr Selikoff's findings and recommendations and determine what, if any, steps should be taken.

It seemed unlikely, however, that the state would do anything further until the Selikoff team produced more final results. Since analysis of PBB levels in the blood and fat have been completed for only 10 per cent of those examined, the team cannot yet relate the health effects found to actual levels of the toxic chemical.

However, Mr Milliken and Mr Bobby Crim, Speaker of the state House of Representatives, agreed that the permitted level of PBB in foods should be drastically lowered.

But lowering the level now would be like closing the stable door after the horse, since there are now only negligible

Continued on page 5, col 3



Wilson team named for review of City's role

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

There was a subdued response in the City yesterday when the Prime Minister announced the composition of Sir Harold Wilson's committee to "review the functioning of the financial institutions".

Many were disappointed that no market specialist or merchant banker was among the 17 names.

Mr Ian Fraser, chairman of the City Capital Markets Committee, said that it was "possible and regrettable" omission that no direct representative of the securities industry had been included. He also regretted the absence of a company lawyer on the committee.

Mr Robert Fell, Chief Executive of the Stock Exchange, said that on balance the committee had the makings of a reasonable team".

mittee had the makings of a reasonable team".

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is one of four prominent trade union figures in the list. Others are Lord Allen of Fallowfield, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers; Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs; and Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of the National Union of Bank Employees.

Mr Jenkins and Mr Mills, members of their unions' membership in the financial sector, are closely involved in the controversial debate over Labour Party proposals to nationalize major banks and insurance companies.

Academics on the new committee are Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, Director of the London School of Economics; Professor Andrew Bain, Esme Fairbairn Professor of the Economics of Finance and Investment at the University of Salford; Mr Andrew Graham, Fellow and Tutor in Economics at Balliol College, Oxford; and Dr John Mitchell, Reader in Economics at Nottingham University.

In terms of reference are business and financial world are Mr Gordon Bayley, director, manager and attorney of National Provident Institution for Mutual Life Assurance; Mr Zachry Brierley, chairman of a North Wales engineering business and a member of the Development Corporation for Wales; Sir Kenneth Board, deputy managing director of the General Electric Company; Mr Kenneth Cork, senior partner in W. H. Cork, Guiley, chartered accountants; Mr Richard Lloyd, chief executive of Williams and Glyn's Bank; Mr David Orr, chairman of Unilever Ltd; Sir John Prideaux, chairman of National Westminster Bank; Mr Hugh Stephenson, Editor of *The Times* Business News; and Mr Arthur Sudgen, chief executive officer of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Representing interests in the business and financial world are Mr Gordon Bayley, director, manager and attorney of National Provident Institution for Mutual Life Assurance; Mr Zachry Brierley, chairman of a North Wales engineering business and a member of the Development Corporation for Wales; Sir Kenneth Board, deputy managing director of the General Electric Company; Mr Kenneth Cork, senior partner in W. H. Cork, Guiley, chartered accountants; Mr Richard Lloyd, chief executive of Williams and

Tangshan earthquake 'killed over 650,000'

Hong Kong, Jan 5.—The South China Morning Post, quoting what it called a secret Chinese Communist Party document, said today that 655,237 people had been killed in the earthquake which devastated the northern Chinese city of Tangshan last July.

No official death toll has been given for the earthquake, which struck the coalmining centre.

But Chairman Hu Kuo-feng said last month that it caused death and destruction on a scale "rarely seen in history".

Western observers in Peking had earlier estimated the death toll at 100,000.

The newspaper quoted what it described as a classified document of the top secret propaganda committee and revolutionary committee. It said the document was tabled at an emergency conference on relief work in the province last August.

The document quoted pre-

Continued on page 5, col 3

Mr Benn orders rapid inquiry on gas blasts

By a Staff Reporter

An immediate inquiry into the recent gas explosions was ordered yesterday by Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and Sir Denis Roche, chairman of the British Gas Corporation.

It appears that the inquiry is being established swiftly in order to reassure worried gas users and to ascertain whether new safeguards are needed.

The usual procedure in such cases would be for British Gas to complete its investigations into the incidents before the Department of Energy decided whether any further inquiry was necessary. However, Mr Benn has moved swiftly, bypassing that procedure.

The type of inquiry is also unusual, since it will be carried out for both the department and the corporation, not for the department alone.

The inquiry panel of three will be chaired by Dr Philip King, senior lecturer in chemical engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. Another member is likely to come from British Gas. The inquiry's report will be presented to Parliament and published as soon as possible.

The inquiry is asked to examine all the circumstances surrounding the recent incidents at Bristol, Bradford, Beeston and elsewhere, and to establish the extent of common factors that may have been present against the background of statistics relating to recent experience of serious gas explosions".

New measures, or improvements in existing procedures or systems, which might help to reduce the severity of such incidents will be considered.

The total number of serious gas explosions in 1976 is not yet known, but up to the end of November there had been 89. There were 75 such explosions between 8 and 13 per cent.

The offer, which will be heavily advertised, will apply to between 15,000 and 20,000 holidays booked between January 10 and March 31 for departure between April 1 and June 30. The discounts of £10 to £20 on brochure prices will apply to holidays in several countries, including Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Kenya and Mauritius.

The airline is also extending until further notice its "no surcharge" guarantee which was to have covered only holidays booked before the end of this month.

Like the rest of the holiday trade, British Airways has suffered a sharp fall in bookings. It says they are down by about a fifth compared with last year. The launching of the scheme was brought forward in response to an offer last week by Ithomson Holidays to freeze prices.

British Airways said last night that hoteliers, particularly in Spain, Portugal and Italy, had cooperated in the discount plan by giving price concessions.

Tour operators say they need early bookings to plan seat and room allocations and control cash flow. They are prepared to cut prices to get them.

Several last year sidestepped an Association of British Travel Agents' rule to prohibit price cutting, but the rule is expected to be dropped shortly.

Thomson Holidays has been offering discounts on some tours since last summer, but the British Airways scheme is the largest of its type and comes much earlier than any previous price-cutting offers.

World cruise: More than 1,200 people set sail from Southampton last night on an 86-day cruise round the world. It is the only sailing of its kind from Britain this winter. They paid between £1,127 and £7,171 for the cruise in the P & O flag-ship *Canberra*, which will take them to 21 ports in five continents.

Stock market: Equities rallied from early weakness and the FT Index closed 2.1 up in 20 minutes.

Financial Editor: An omission from Sir Harold Wilson's team; Tess will come to speak for bank lending; Bullion posers for the multi-national.

Peter Jay Column: What Lord Kaldor has to say about inflation and recession.

Business features: Peter Norman on the German trade unions; search for an alternative way of organizing the economy worth pursuing.

Letters: On the level of management salaries, from Professor C. J. Constable; on the hereditary peerage, from Mr Humphrey Berkley and Mr John Lee, MP; on adversary politics, from Lord Harrow; and on Christian names of 1976, from Mrs Margaret Brown.

Leading articles: Trial by jury; Israel: The counter-Fabians.

Features, pages 9 and 12

Bernard Levin traces the path leading to dictatorship in India; Prudence Glynn on Sir Norman Hartnell's royal fashion.

Arts, page 12

John Neville interviewed by Michael Leach; Alan Coven and Stanley Reynolds on television; Irving Wardle on *Loaded Questions* (*King's Head*); John Percival on *Swan Lake* (*Covent Garden*).

Books, page 8

Michael Ratcliffe on Stefan Heym's novel *Five Days in June*; Louis Heren on *Passing Forgetting* by Kay Summersby Morgan.

Sport

HOME NEWS

Pay policy faces a crucial test at Nalgo's conference

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Socie
The TUC-Government pay

resistance policy will face a crucial test next week when Britain's fourth biggest union considers demands for an end to the social contract.

The white-collar National and Local Government Officers Association (Nalgo), which has 625,000 members, will discuss militant demands at a one-day conference in London on January 14.

Public-sector unions such as Nalgo are clearly reflecting mounting union disenchantment with the Government's economic strategy. The blue-collar National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) will hold a one-day strike in Wiltshire on January 18, because of backing by the National Union of Teachers, may cause some schools to close.

The executive of Nalgo will propose a stiff resolution to the conference demanding alternative economic policies in line with the TUC approach. The resolution urges bans on overtime where there are positive redundancy proposals, and encourages members to refuse to perform duties attached to vacant posts.

But 57 amendments to the resolution have been tabled by branches, most of them demanding a tougher stand against the continued attack on public expenditure and living standards. Several make an outright call for withdrawal from the pay policy and the social contract; others demand a recalled Trades Union Congress.

The Tower Hamlets, London, branch says that by failing to introduce alternative economic policies, to reduce unemployment or to maintain the social wage, the Government has demonstrated its unwillingness to keep its side of the social contract. The TUC should be recalled and support for the social contract withdrawn, it

says. Any other form of wage control should be opposed. Similar demands are voiced in several amendments.

Warwickshire County Council branch says bluntly in view of the broken pledges by the Government, Nalgo is no longer bound by the social contract.

Lambeth branch goes farther, with a demand for withdrawal from discussions on wage restraint and the social contract with the TUC or the Government. Glasgow district branch says the social contract is no longer binding because of the Government's failure to maintain employment levels and expenditure on social services.

Demands for industrial action are made by several branches: Hammersmith calls for an increasing national campaign against the cuts. Islington wants vigorous opposition to natural wastage, early retirement, freezing of posts and voluntary or compulsory redundancy, and suggests a ban on calling a one-day national strike.

Nearly all the amendments, in one way or another, attempt to put more muscle into the executive's resolution, which begins by expressing deep concern over the continuing high level of unemployment and failing living standards.

If, as is possible, the conference agrees on a more militant resolution, the Government may be faced with the strongest active opposition yet to its economic strategy in general, and its reductions in public expenditure in particular.

The strongest demand for action comes from the Middlesex Polytechnic branch, which calls for a national strike of Nalgo members from March 1, to continue until the Government "agrees to reverse its policy of cuts in public expenditure and to restore public expenditure to the levels prevailing in 1972, adjusted for inflation".

Six-point Tory plan for the economy

By Our Political Staff

Fresh legislation even on apparently desirable objectives such as worker-participation in management should be given low priority at a time when Britain needs to concentrate on the removal of obstacles to initiative and enterprise, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor, said at a Leicester yesterday. He listed five other elements in a Conservative economic strategy:

1. The "car-crash" of course needed to be backed away, along with the complexities of the tax system. In that spirit the Conservative Party would soon publish proposals for simplifying the effects of VAT, particularly in small enterprises.

2. The balance of the tax system needed to be shifted from direct to indirect tax. A reverse yield gap between work and unemployment had to be transformed, and the Conservatives were working on a tax credit system.

3. Urgency must be given to an amendment to the Employment Protection Act to allow the self-employed. "Too much of today's activity by Government amounts to a programme for job-destruction in the independent sector, which is in no sense offset by the job-creation programme of the present Government."

4. The Health and Safety Executive, MP for Renfrewshire, East, Mr Maurice Macmillan, Conservative MP for Farnham, and other anti-devolutionists, asking that the effect of the Act, defined in clause 1, be being to "make changes in the government of Scotland and Wales as parts of the United

Labour MPs want Wales out of home-rule Bill

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

With a week to go before the Commons begins the committee stage of the devolution Bill, some Labour backbenchers are urging the Government to have second thoughts about including Wales and Scotland in one measure. They have said that the Government might face early defeat unless the issues are separated.

The Conservatives seem likely to insist on a majority from disaffected Labour MPs from Wales and England when they move their amendment to delete Wales from the Bill, and the margin might be narrow. The vote for the exclusion of Wales, knowing that a separate Bill for Wales is not ruled out if public demand warrants it.

Among 60 amendments published yesterday is one from Miss Harvie Anderson, Conservative MP for Renfrewshire, East, Mr Maurice Macmillan, Conservative MP for Farnham, and other anti-devolutionists, asking that the effect of the Act, defined in clause 1,

be being to "make changes in the

government of Scotland and

Wales as parts of the United

Kingdom", should be deleted.

In its place they want to insist that the Bill "shall make no changes in the government of the United Kingdom and shall not affect or be construed as affecting the supreme authority and competence of Parliament". They propose that the Bill's purpose shall be to "set up a local administration in Scotland and Wales only after one referendum or more has been conducted . . .".

Other Conservatives led by Mr Gardner, MP (Keighley), propose that no change should be made until after a national referendum in which one question would ask: "Do you want the changes in the government of the United Kingdom and Wales Act to take effect?" A related amendment states that the Act would not have effect unless a majority in such a referendum voted for it.

Those Conservatives who want Parliament to continue as the supreme legislature, including Miss Harvie Anderson and

Mr Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, put forward a proviso that "no provision of this Act shall be used to alter the process whereby laws are made for the United Kingdom".

That is as far as home in another amendment stating that the Scottish assembly "shall be to all intents and purposes other than a Monday on which Parliament is sitting". The implication is that the assembly will be a branch of Parliament to which Westminster MPs could be elected. Most Scottish MPs travel to Westminster on Monday evening.

Another amendment seeks to provide that if Parliament at Westminster objects to a measure being considered in the Scottish assembly it shall have power to stop it.

About three hundred amendments have been tabled for the committee stage. Many hundreds more are expected, and it seems almost certain that the Government will have to use the guillotine to get the Bill through in the time allotted.

Pit talks on early retirement hit snags

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Talks on the miners' early retirement claim ran into difficulties last night. Leaders of the National Union of Miners' workers were told that there was no government money to fund a scheme allowing pitmen to retire before state retirement age.

Miners' negotiators left the talks angry at the stringent terms placed by the National Coal Board on an improved scheme which would allow men to leave the industry. The dispute may yet go to the Prime Minister, after union warnings that the Government is standing in the way of a deal.

The coal board yesterday put forward a compromise formula that would bring down the retirement age for colliers to 60 by 1980, provided those eligible had 20 years' underground service.

Initially, the scheme would be voluntary, but open to review after a year. The starting date would be "as soon as possible" but entirely subject to pay restraint rules under the TUC-Government income policy.

The latter ruling is causing serious dispute among miners' negotiators. The full executive of the NUM meets this morning before a second round of talks with the coal board on the more ambitious claim for retirement at 60 now reducing to 55 by mid-1980.

The most surprising intervention in yesterday's talks was a statement read by Sir Derek Ears, chairman of the coal board, that the Government had ruled out a capital injection into the industry for the introduction of early retirement for miners. Sir Derek told the union: "I believe this is a Cabinet decision."

His statement provoked a strong response from the miners' negotiators, but their early feeling of dumbfoundness gave way to cynical amusement when the coal board finally produced its improved offer.

Mr Joseph Corrigan, the miners' president, admitted that they had been told of the Government's warning that no money was available to finance any part of an early retirement scheme. But we do not take that as the last word", he said.

During yesterday's negotiations the NUM executive voted 14 to 11 for any early retirement scheme to become compulsory after an initial 12-month voluntary period. That flew in the face of the board's proposal that it should be voluntary for a year, and then subject to review.

In full, the coal board proposed that miners with 20 years' service underground should be allowed to retire if they wanted. The first opportunity would come for pitmen aged 63, and the objective was to reduce that figure to 60 by 1980.

US lost more working days than Britain

By Tim Jones

Labour Staff

Figures released today by the Department of Employment show that in the 10 years from 1966 to 1976 the United States lost more days than Britain through industrial disputes for every 1,000 people employed.

Based on information supplied by the International Labour Office, the figures indicate that when American pundits refer to the "English sickness" the pot might be calling the kettle black.

Officials will take pleasure from the figures, which bear out

the department's own findings last month that strike activity in manufacturing industries in Britain is not widespread.

The number of days lost through strikes in Britain dropped by 57 per cent in 1975, with every 1,000 working people losing an average of only 4.5 days compared with 10.7 in 1966.

The figure represented a 75 per cent improvement on 1972, when 2,160 days for every 1,000 people employed were lost. The figure for Japan was 247 days. The 1972 total was the highest since

1926, the year of the general strike.

In the international league table Britain comes eleventh in the decade from 1966 to 1975, with every 1,000 working people losing an average of 7.5 days compared with 10.7 in 1966.

For the similar period, excluding 1975, for which no figures are available, the United States lost 1,327 days, Australia 1,036 days, Canada 1,349 days and Italy 1,766 days. The figure for Japan was 247 days.

The inspections mainly involve correction of alignment of the moving platforms, and they have been certified safe.

Although few in number, the Paternosters, so called from their resemblance to rosary beads, carry millions of passengers each year in tall buildings such as universities, hospitals, and other public buildings in their continually moving walk-on, walk-off platform cars.

In recent months, it was learnt yesterday, the 73 installations have been the subject of comprehensive, unpublicized checks, and many were found defective. All now have to be certified that they have been checked and examined as safe for use by surveyors of companies in the engineering sector of the insurance market.

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of the moving platforms, and they have been certified safe.

Unequal pay strike by journalists

Continued from page 1

generous share scheme with Haw Par.

Mr Waterhouse said the case concerned Slater, Walker's trusteeship of Haw Par and its subsidiaries. The conduct fell lamentably below the required standards", he said.

The application for extradition followed an investigation by English inspectors called in by the Minister of Finance in Singapore. Mr Waterhouse said Singapore law in relation to company directors and their duties was based on English law, although in some instances it was in advance or clearer.

The law of other Commonwealth countries had been drawn upon, but basically Mr Waterhouse said: "What is wrong in Singapore is wrong in London, and what is wrong in London is wrong in Singapore".

Mr Waterhouse said the charges covered three aspects of the conduct of Haw Par. They were: the history of Spydar

Securities, the transfer of shares to Spydar, and the conduct of Haw Par.

The strike, which is official, was notified to the management 28 days ago. Mercury House publishes trade and technical magazines. Pickets will man the entrances to Mercury House today.

There is still confusion about schedule 11, the controversial compensation scheme to be introduced by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

The schedule, which the Confederation of British Industry has condemned for its inflationary implications, seeks to end pockets of low pay by giving unions a right to claim equal pay for comparable jobs in comparable industries in the same districts.

Mr Hugh O'Neill, managing director of Mercury House, said in a staff circular that the action was an irresponsible attitude "as it obviously jeopardizes all our livelihoods and prejudices our future".

He said he would not give a minority of staff benefits that it would be impossible to give everybody. If all the demands were met it would mean that a number of publications would cease to be viable.

"I cannot believe that the people concerned are naive enough not to realize the consequences of their actions. I wonder therefore if there are political reasons behind the strike of this nature," he said.

Attached to the circular is an unsigned paragraph about Trotsky and Lenin, which ends: "To stand on the side of Trotsky and Lenin can only mean supporting the dictatorship of the proletariat and the destruction of terror, which it has required in every Marxist state ever established. Is that compatible with membership of a democratic party?"

Mr O'Neill said last night that some days ago he offered to refer the issue to Acas, but the union refused. He believed that the paragraph about Lenin and Trotsky had been quoted from an article in *The Daily Telegraph*.

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HOME NEWS

Churches say 'action' gamblers need separate betting shops

By Marcel Berlins
There should be separate betting offices for serious gamblers who want to "get into the action" and for punters who just want to have a bet, the Churches' Council on Gambling proposes.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on Gambling published yesterday, the council says that these two types of gambling are different experiences and require separate environments.

The "action" gambler needs the excitement of the race commentary. The other kind of punter merely wants somewhere where he can place a bet and return later to pick up winnings.

The betting office atmosphere, including commentaries, serves as an incitement to bet on more than one race and even non-gamblers' feet may move. "Action gambling is continuous and circular," the transmitted voice (of the commentary), itself unexcited and unenthusiastic, certainly bears out the rhythm," the council says.

"The conditions which provide the necessary medium for 'action' gamblers constitute a stumbling block for those who wish only to have a bet and become a vehicle of disaster for competitive gamblers."

The council also wants to see bingo limited to the traditional "friendly and neighbourly" game. The intrusion of quicker-moving, higher intensity forms should be illegal, it says.

14% acquitted of rape later convicted

By Our Medical Correspondent

Men charged with rape and acquitted are just as likely to commit sexual offences as those convicted, it appears from a follow-up of all those charged with the offence in England in 1961. The survey was part of a research project organized by Professor L. C. N. Gibbons, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

Gibbons, who admitted he had not told the public about his findings, said: "I had yet to hear a coherent argument for the existing division. He has seen recent indications of lack of public confidence in the legal system."

Among the adult rapists the reconviction rate was 12 per cent; 14 per cent of those acquitted in 1961 were later convicted of sexual offences. One man, however, was acquitted on three occasions,

Lord Goodman attacks dual legal system

By Our Medical Correspondent

Men charged with rape and acquitted are just as likely to commit sexual offences as those convicted, it appears from a follow-up of all those charged with the offence in England in 1961. The survey was part of a research project organized by Professor L. C. N. Gibbons, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

Gibbons, who admitted he had not told the public about his findings, said: "I had yet to hear a coherent argument for the existing division. He has seen recent indications of lack of public confidence in the legal system."

Among the adult rapists the reconviction rate was 12 per cent; 14 per cent of those acquitted in 1961 were later convicted of sexual offences. One man, however, was acquitted on three occasions,



The scene at Python Hill, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire, yesterday, after two school buses and a lorry had crashed, leaving a man dead and 54 people hurt.

Social trends 4: Changing pattern of employment

Shift towards public-sector work

By David Walker

For every seven social workers employed by local authorities in 1971 there were 10 last year. Employment in the health service increased at an equal rate and the whole public sector offered more than 700,000 additional jobs during the same period.

Probably the most striking growth took place in local authorities, which were administratively reorganized in 1974. While local authority staff increased at an average annual rate of 80,000 between the later 1950s and early 1970s, since 1971 they have increased at a rate of more than 90,000 a year at least until the Central Statistical Office survey last year.

Work in the public service attracts an increasing proportion of graduates. After an increase from 1971 to 1973, the numbers of graduates entering industry and commerce dropped, and last summer there were about two taking such jobs, compared with five work-

ing in the public service or teaching.

However, the tendency to enter public sector work should not be exaggerated, since the proportion of the total employed labour force in public-sector jobs is now only 4 per cent higher than in the late 1950s, when it was just over 25 per cent.

The fall in numbers employed by the nationalized industries of coal and transport has continued. The change is reflected in the fall in the membership of the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Union of Railwaysmen by more than a half since the 1950s. There has been a continuing decline in numbers employed in agriculture and fishing, transport and manufacturing, to the benefit of insurance and banking.

The characteristics of the employable population have changed little. The numbers of unemployed have climbed rapidly since 1973, though the proportion of those out of a job for about a fortnight, pre-

sumably while changing jobs, has remained steady.

There seems to have been an increase in recent years in job mobility. Whereas a quarter of young workers aged between 16 and 24 changed jobs in 1972, a third did so in 1974.

The section of the employable population in prison has remained constant since 1970 at about 38,000 men and 1,000 women.

The rewards of work appear to be slightly more evenly distributed among manual workers, probably due to a lessening of differentials. The classification of earned income as a whole shows the earnings of wives to have become more important. There seems to have been a reduction in the importance of degrees as a sign of high earnings.

Work remains a comparatively dangerous place. Last year in the mines and oil processing there were nearly twenty deaths for every 100,000 employees: 13 in shipbuilding and 17 in general construction.

Next: Regions and classes

Former official denies typewriter charge

Mr Joseph Cooper, former chief public relations officer for Greater Manchester Council, will deny two summonses

alleging that he stole or dishonestly received an electric typewriter. Manchester City Magistrates were told yesterday:

Mr Cooper, aged 49, of

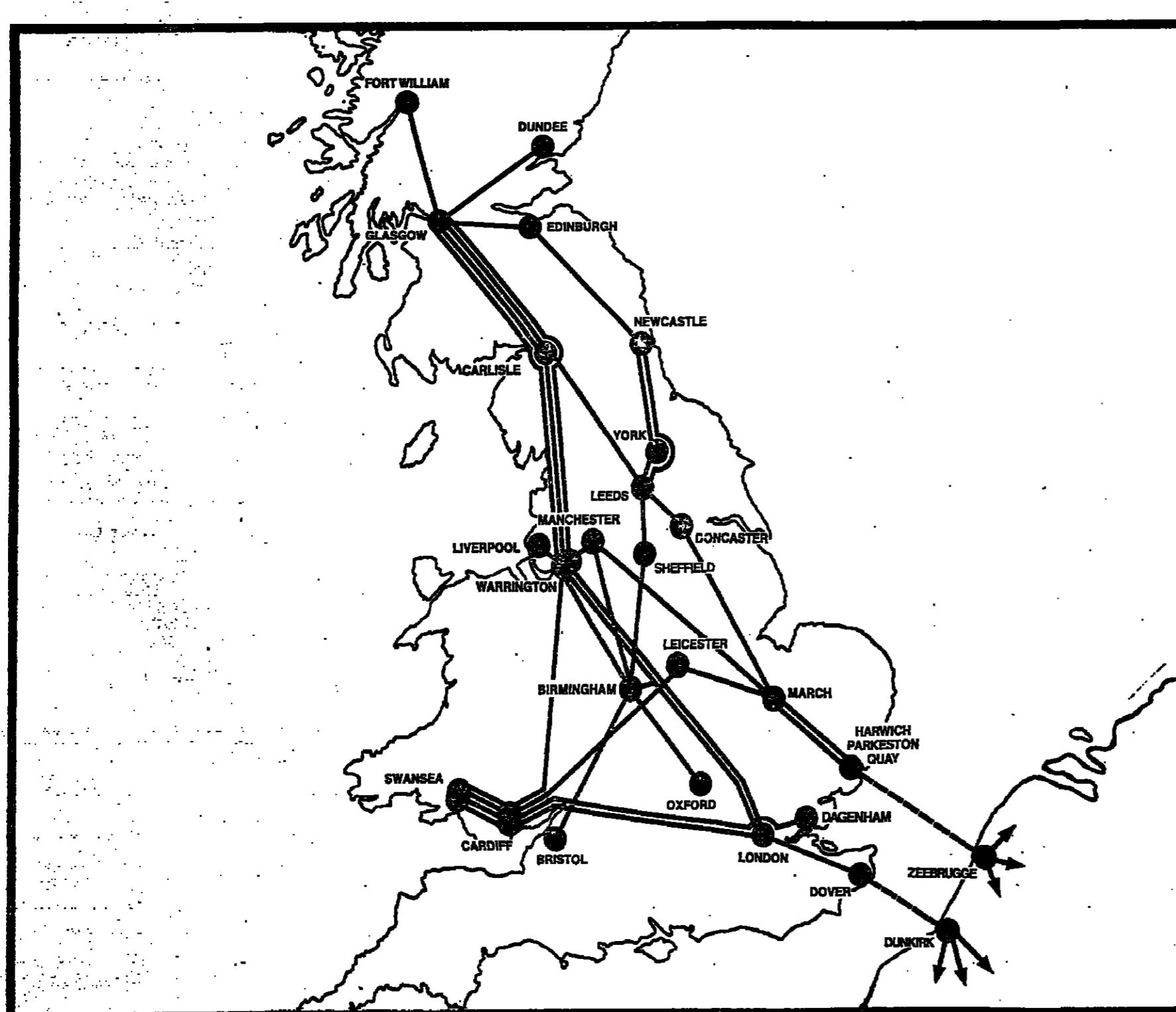
Dovercourt Avenue, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, was sent for trial to Manchester Crown Court on his own bail of £50.

Mr Ian Burton, for the defence, asking for press restrictions to be lifted, told the court: "It appears fashionable to bring matters concerning people in local government to trial at the

Crown Court at great expense. My client denies these allegations."

Alan Glover, aged 47, of Arnold Avenue, Heywood, was sent for trial accused of stealing an electric typewriter. His solicitor, Mr Geoffrey Miller, said he also would deny the offence.

A New Concept in Rail Freight



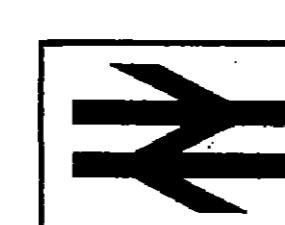
Railfreight is expanding its network of overnight trains. Last October, two new routes were introduced linking Dover and Central Scotland, the Midlands, Tyneside and South Wales. Services now operate from all the main centres shown, including ferry trains direct into Europe. And more are planned for 1977.

It means a new era of daily scheduled wagonload services complementing the established pattern of company "block" trains.

New types of wagons—another thousand have just been ordered—give better riding, can carry greater loads and operate at higher speeds.

TOPS, British Rail's own computer based control system can pinpoint wagons anywhere on the network in seconds.

It all adds up to a new, improved type of service for Railfreight's customers. Faster, strictly controlled and highly competitive.



Railfreight

Inquiry into risks of inoculation requested

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Health and the Attorney General have been asked to investigate fears that children have suffered brain damage after routine vaccination, and to establish where responsibility lies if such damage is proved.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, in a letter to Sir Idwal Pugh, the commissioner, says that three hundred previously healthy children have been turned into "human cabbages" by immunization.

Conservative and Labour governments have so far rejected proper investigation, he says.

Mr Ashley says that ministers have seemed to suggest that anything to do with immunisation is a matter for individual doctors.

In a letter to Mr Samuel Silkin, the Attorney General, he says that at present, if damage to a child can be proved to be due to inoculation, the responsibility seems to lie with individual doctors.

That, Mr Ashley points out, has grave implications for doctors. He requests Mr Silkin to give advice about where responsibility lies.

He has also written to Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, suggesting that he should establish a compensation scheme for those injured and those who may be affected.

In brief

New colours for bottle tops

Regulations laid before Parliament yesterday extend the existing colour code for milk-bottle caps to include sterilized and ultra-heat-treated milk. The regulations come into force on July 5.

The new colours for bottle caps are blue for sterilized milk and pink for ultra-heat-treated. Lettering may be black and silver and may be embossed.

Water restriction ends

Yorkshire's last water supply restriction was lifted yesterday. For the first time since September 1975, people in the south-western division of the Yorkshire Water Authority's area will be able to use a hose for washing cars and watering gardens.

Police test motor cycle

Surrey police have ordered nine more German-made BMW motor cycles but a decision on the make of the remaining eight in its vehicle-replacement programme will depend on results of test runs on the British Triumph Saint 750cc machine.

Pilot escapes crash

Mr Leslie Banks, aged 56, of Ealing, London, escaped with a fractured jaw and face cuts yesterday when the Cessna plane he was piloting crashed into a wood at Stoughton, near Chichester.

Bluebell profit

The privately owned Bluebell railway in Sussex announced yesterday that 1976 has been its most successful year, with 13 per cent more fare-paying passengers than in 1975.

MPs relinquish seats

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Mr Jenkins to the Chiltern Hundreds, and Mr Christopher Tugendhat to the Manor of Northstead.

Tunnel tryst

Construction men working from the ends of the new Dartford tunnel under the Thames are expected to meet next week 120ft below the middle of the river.

No 'Morning Star'

The Morning Star was not published today because of a dispute with the National Graphical Association over payment for working on the New Year Bank Holiday.

Safari park for sale

Windsor Safari Park is for sale for about £1.5m from the Smart circus family. Offers received include one from Ladbrokes.

WEST EUROPE

Spanish reforms keep up momentum of drive to democracy

From Harry Debechus

Madrid, Jan 5
It was King Juan Carlos's thirty-ninth birthday today and Spaniards had a few things to celebrate: a decree excluding conscientious objectors from military service; the temporary avoidance of a collapse in negotiations between Government and opposition; the release of a number of Basque pro-amnesty demonstrators; and a more liberal draft of law to legalize trade unions.

The text of the conscientious objection decree, published today, says that objectors may serve "in posts of public interest". Rabbits drawn in the armed forces, but this service will last for three years compared to the average conscript's service of one year to 18 months.

Leaders of the principal opposition parties avoided statements with the Government by design, a former member being the only team with no Communist members to begin negotiations with Senior Adolfo Suarez, the Prime Minister, on the preparing for the country's move towards democracy.

There had been some concern that if the opposition insisted on having a Communist member on the team the Government would refuse to meet.

The opposition party leaders did not fully announce their demand for legalization of all parties, including the Communist Party; they simply put off the eventual showdown

over the issue by the tactical manoeuvre. They have given their team the specific task of negotiating on only two issues: a broader amnesty and recognition for all political parties.

Although a head-on collision has thus been avoided, it could come later. Opposition leaders told reporters last night that a second team—possibly including a Communist—will be chosen to handle the next round of talks with the Prime Minister and discuss the democratic guarantees needed for holding elections.

Police freed an unspecified number of people in the Basque city of San Sebastian who had been taken into custody during the past few days in connection with demonstrations in favour of a broader amnesty. They were released in time to take part in traditional family festivities winding up the Christmas season, including the night when gifts are exchanged in Spain.

The independent Madrid daily *El País* reported today that a parliamentary committee, which is studying government proposed legislation to legalize trade unions, has modified the Government's proposal, making the text more liberal. The proposed law is to be presented in the near future to a plenary session of the Cortes for approval. The first draft of the proposed law merely referred to "associations" of workers; the latest version uses the term "organizations". The new version also makes it a less onerous procedure to gain legal recognition for a trade union.

Paris talks on Giscard visit to Saudi Arabia

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Jan 5

President Giscard d'Estaing today met Prince Saad al-Faisal, the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, to discuss his state visit to the Kingdom later this month. The Prince delivered a personal message from King Khalid, underlining the mutual importance placed on the visit by the two heads of state.

Cooperation in tackling the West's economic problems will obviously dominate the President's talks in Riyadh. However, among the other items, among them a possible nuclear deal, technical assistance, sale of sophisticated weaponry and economic agreements.

The four-day visit will be the first to Saudi Arabia by the French President. The economic winds that result from such visits assure them a special character. However, there is no doubt that this one is of particular importance to President Giscard d'Estaing.

He has done much to foster the North-South dialogue between raw material producing and industrialized countries, and is throwing his weight behind efforts to make 1977 the year in which a determined attempt is made to solve the Middle East crisis.

Furthermore, there is evidence that the two heads of state are anxious to develop their cooperation far beyond what had been envisaged to

date. As much was recently made clear by Shaikh Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister, when he stated in an interview which was published in France. That his Government favoured the present regime in Paris.

After his 40-minute meeting with the President, Prince Saad said that the "modesties" of the visit were discussed and that the King's message concerned this. Although it has not been announced, an advance party of high-level French officials is expected to leave soon for Saudi Arabia to prepare the President's arrival on January 22.

What has not gone unnoticed here is the presence in Cairo of M Yvon Bourges, the French Defence Minister, who is discussing French participation in the proposed Arab arms industry with Egyptian officials.

This new industry, which would be based in Egypt, is to be financed largely by Saudi Arabia and the expectation is that something tangible will emerge in time for President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Riyadh.

Another indication of the wider nature of the proposed new French-Saudi cooperation is the project to rebuild the war-tattered port of Beirut. Saudi Arabia is anxious that this should go ahead and has but promised the necessary finance, with the French undertaking the construction.

Berlin to wind up fund for airlift victims

From Our Correspondent, Berlin, Jan 5

The West Berlin Senate has decided to wind up the Luftbrückendank fund, which aids the dependants of allied servicemen and a few Germans who lost their lives in the Berlin air lift.

In 1959, on the tenth anniversary of the end of the air lift, Berliners donated DM16m as an expression of their gratitude to those who helped them to survive the Russian blockade.

The fund was increasingly used to help the education of the children of American, British and French servicemen killed in air lift accidents.

With the number of those entitled to benefit from the fund decreasing rapidly, the Senate decided yesterday to use up total the capital and interest of the fund by extending its benefits to a wider section of the population of America, Britain and France.

Greece replaces head of EEC negotiations team

From Our Correspondent, Athens, Jan 5

The Greek Government today replaced Mr Nicos Kyriazis as chief negotiator with the EEC after disagreements involving the conditions for Greece's full membership of the Community.

He is succeeded by Mr Vyrion Theodoropoulos, Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry and former Ambassador to the Community.

The negotiations for Greek membership, which began in earnest in Brussels last month are highlighting the practical difficulties of accession.

Announcing the changes, Mr Panayotis Papaloukas, Minister of Coordination and Planning, who is responsible for the negotiations, said the Government was "determined to negotiate with tenacity in order to safeguard the economic interests of the country and particularly of Greek exporters and farmers".

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Socialists attack mayor over meetings with Pope

From Our Correspondent, Rome, Jan 5

The new Marxist mayor of Rome, Professor Giulio Carlo Argan, is under attack from the Socialists and other left-wing lay parties for overdoing things, as they see it, in his efforts to establish good relations with the Pope.

Professor Argan, with other representatives of Rome's first Communist-dominated city council, has met the Pope three times in the past month, a record unbroken by his Catholic predecessor. Two occasions were religious ceremonies in the city, the third was Monday's audience of the Pope in the Vatican.

"You can have too much of a good thing," commented a Socialist party spokesman, Signor Fabrizio Cicali. He added that the need for civilized relations between the left-wing city council and the Vatican "does not mean there should be an attitude of subordination nor that the mayor should follow the Pope to every square and church he chooses to go into".

The person most upset by the meetings was the Socialist deputy mayor of Rome, Signor Alberto Benoni, who stayed away from the papal audience in protest. He said later that he regarded meetings as useless for solving the city's problems.

He claimed many of these problems had been created by large-scale building speculation by religious organizations which own a large proportion of the property in Rome. "One might expect a minimum of self-criticism from the church on the subject," he said.

The deputy mayor's objections were supported by a Republican spokesman, the extreme left-wing Proletarian Democracy Party and by the Radicals, who have consistently accused the Communists of "bootlicking" the church.

The Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano* today deplored an article in the Italian weekly, *L'Europeo*, giving a long list of what it claimed was Vatican property in Rome, held through various organizations. The magazine said the church owned about one-quarter of the city.

OVERSEAS

Mr Carter's business likely to stay in family

From Fred Emery

Washington, Jan 5

Mr Jimmy Carter's peanut business is likely to stay in the family, in spite of his decision to place his majority share in the hands of a trustee who has authority to sell or lease it for the period of his presidency.

The arrangements announced yesterday, which provide for Mr Carter to receive cash income from his holdings while in office and to reclaim most of them afterwards, have been widely welcomed as going beyond existing legal requirements.

The multimillion dollar peanut broking firm known as Carter's Warehouse is likely to continue under the management of Mr Billy Carter, the President-elect's younger brother.

He has let it be known he has "first option" under the arrangements. Since he has said he cannot afford to buy out his brother's large holding, it is assumed the business will be leased back to him.

It is thought that the trustee might be Mr Charles Kiro, the Atlanta lawyer and a longstanding close adviser of Mr Carter, who is not taking a formal government post.

Congressmen who keep their finances private would be aghast at having to fulfil what is to be required of all senior political appointees after Mr Carter's inauguration on January 20.

They must make available for public inspection "a complete current net worth statement" detailing all their assets and liabilities and those of their wives, minor children and other members of their immediate households. The statement must also denote sources of current wealth. Similar statements will be made public during an appointee's time in office, and for the two years after departure from government.

These "ethics" guidelines require that any "severance benefits", including merit awards, given to appointees as they depart from their firms to take up office will be scrutinized.

Any "preexisting established plan" for reward can be followed, but anything beyond six months' salary or above \$50,000 (£30,000) to \$75,000 "would need careful examination".

The requirements are expected to cause difficulties for a number of the wealthy businessmen Mr Carter has appointed.

Some of them have lifetime consultancy payment arrangements with big firms, which will have to be waived.

This is especially clear in the requirement for full public financial disclosure by the 2,000 senior appointees to government, who must also pledge to serve a full term, and not, for one year after leaving government, to make even an informal contact for remuneration with any employee of the government department or agency they served.

This rules out the "sweet heart" arrangements under which departing government officials have been promptly employed to lobby the departments they had just left.

Officials must also pledge that for two years after leaving government, they will make no paid contact with a member of the executive branch regarding a specified business matter.

Mr Felker's refusal means



Representative Max Baucus (Democrat, Montana) bottle-feeding his baby at the formal opening of Congress on Tuesday. Wives and families were invited to attend and thousands thronged the Capitol.

Mr Murdoch's peace approach is rejected

From Peter Strafford

New York, Jan 5

Mr Clay Felker, president of the New York Magazine Company, today rejected an approach from Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper owner, aimed at reaching an amicable settlement of Mr Murdoch's takeover bid. He issued a statement saying he would not meet Mr Murdoch.

Mr Felker said he was doing this out of respect for the views of the staffs of the company's three magazines, *New York*, *The Village Voice* and *New West*. The employees are opposed to the takeover and had asked Mr Felker not to meet Mr Murdoch.

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Mr Felker's refusal means

Washington will dance in the new President

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Jan 5

Hundreds of free events will take place in Washington during Mr Carter's inauguration week. They include what is being called the "world's biggest square dance" on January 21—the day after the actual inauguration—to which the first 10,000 who pick up tickets will be admitted.

A similar number will also be admitted for folk dancing on January 18.

Mr Felker claims the arrangement he had with Mr Burden giving him the right of first refusal if Mr Burden wanted to sell out.

Mr Felker has been backed by his staff because they are apprehensive about Mr Murdoch's reputation as a newspaper publisher.

Some of them are also concerned about the company being taken over by a foreigner.

Botswana sympathetic to Rhodesia proposalsFrom Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 5

politician; it should stop manoeuvring to set up a puppet government in Salisbury; halt the supply of British mercenaries and arms to the Smith regime; prevent the British media from publishing lies and slanders against the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Zips; and end the charade of presenting Britain's latest settlement proposals as moves to establish peace in Rhodesia, when the opposite was true.

It is unclear at this stage whether Mr Richard, in addition to meeting President Machel and other Mozambican leaders, will have talks with Mr Robert Mugabe, one of the joint leaders of the Patriotic Front and representative at the Geneva talks for some of the Rhodesian guerrillas. So far Bishop Abel Muzorewa has been the only nationalist leader Mr Richard has seen during his present tour.

Addis Ababa, Jan 5.—A senior official of the Patriotic Front said today that it wanted an intensification of the armed struggle in Rhodesia to bring Mr Ian Smith's Government to its knees.

Mr Joseph Msika, general secretary of Mr Joshua Nkomo's faction of the African National Council, said, however, that a negotiated settlement of the dispute would be welcome.

Mr Msika, here for a meeting with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) officials yesterday, told Reuter he would be surprised if the Geneva conference on Rhodesia resumed as planned on January 17, though it might resume later. He said he could see few results coming out of the present visit to southern Africa by Mr Richard, because the British and Americans were trying to involve the nationalists in proposals which they had no part in forming.

Salisbury bus boycott

From Our Own Correspondent, Salisbury, Jan 5

Thousands of black communists continued to boycott Salisbury's buses today in protest at the dismissal of about 800 drivers and conductors all of whom had spent Christmas in prison.

The bus company employees lost their job for refusing to end a strike begun on Christmas Eve over the size of a Christmas bonus. Within hours of the strike starting, police arrested them.

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OVERSEAS

Hopes rise for end to unrest as Soweto pupils drift back to school

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 5

It was a quiet day at school beginning to a school year for South Africa's black pupils. At 8 am, the time when classes were supposed to begin, Soweto's Orlando high school was, except for the principal, Mr Wilkie Kambule, totally deserted.

"I think the students will start arriving later in the morning," said Mr Kambule, his customary optimism apparently unaffected by a sharp drop in police patrols in the area last week. "But they got into the habit during the disturbances in Soweto last year of not turning up until they had checked there were no police on the premises."

Sure enough, 10 minutes later a couple of teachers arrived and they were followed by two girls who went quietly to one of the classrooms and sat waiting for something to happen. Soon others began to arrive, some singly or in pairs, others in groups.

By 9.30 about 60 of the school's 900 pupils had arrived and Mr Kambule decided it was time for school to begin. A teacher ringing a handbell walked round the school buildings, many of them severely damaged during the disturbances, and the pupils gathered in one of the classrooms for hymn-singing and an address by Mr Kambule.

At Morris Isaacson school, where the student revolt on the Afrikaans language issue first began, the attendance was somewhat better. By 10.30 am, the principal, Mr Leigan Marks, had 150 pupils in for four hours. Last year, estimated that about one-quarter of his 800 pupils had

arrived. He set them to work clearing up the rubble and broken glass from damaged school buildings.

"I think many students are adopting a wait-and-see attitude," he said. "But so long as there are no incidents involving the police, I think there will be a better attendance tomorrow and things should be near normal by next week." However, he did not know how many of his pupils were among those who had fled South Africa to neighbouring black states last year and would not be returning to their classes.

In Soweto the police stayed away from schools. Yesterday the township's police chief, Brigadier Jan Visser, gave an assurance that the police would not interfere when the schools returned today. However, they were clearly taking no chances and the occasional patrol could be seen moving distinctly more rapidly than outside outside Morris Isaacson a black plainclothes man lolling against a telegraph post as he kept the school under observation.

Today's reopening of schools in South Africa's black townships follows months of enforced closure caused by last year's riots. The term has started earlier than usual in order to allow pupils to prepare for last year's examinations, which were boycotted in protest over the number of deaths in the riots and the detention of hundreds of students by the police.

The beginning of the term is being watched closely by the South African authorities. They believe that significant turn-out during the next few days could herald a return to normality.

Civil rights leader questioned in Moscow

Moscow, Jan 5.—The leader of a dissident group set up to monitor Soviet observance of the Helsinki accord was questioned by plainclothes police today and questioned for seven hours before being released.

Dr Yuri Orlov was bundled into a car as he was on his way to a press conference in a private flat where he planned to tell Western journalists about police searches yesterday of his apartment and those of four other dissidents.

After his interrogation at the public prosecutor's office Dr Orlov telephoned co-responsible to see if investigations had led him to criminal case which had been started as a result of documents found in the searches.

The charge was one of spreading deliberate fabrications slandering the Soviet system. The fabrications were alleged to be contained in several hundred documents on the work of the Helsinki accord monitor group which police confiscated.

He said that investigators had not specified who he accused were, but told him he was a witness at the case.

Dr Orlov, who formerly worked as a physicist, had today defied a summons to report for questioning at the prosecutor's office. He said he had been asked to return to the office tomorrow.

He said he had responded to all questions, which concerned documents and other items found in his flat, by specifying how in his view each question violated the letter of Helsinki.

—Reuter.

Rabin eulogy fails to head off calls for Ofer inquiry

From Our Correspondent

Tel Aviv, Jan 5

As Mr Abraham Ofer, the Minister of Housing, was buried with state honours here this afternoon, a political argument developed over whether an investigation into alleged embezzlement involving a building company he once headed should proceed.

Before shooting himself on a beach here on Monday Mr Ofer left a note saying he was completely innocent but was driven to despair by slanderous accusations. Political associates said he was broken after a meeting on Sunday with Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, who did not give him the backing hoped for.

But, speaking over the bier in the lobby of City Hall this afternoon, Mr Rabin said his last words on Sunday morning to Mr Ofer were "Abraham, I, Yitzhak Rabin, believe you are innocent".

Mr Rabin quoted protestations of innocence from the suicide note and said that these sincere words "in the moment of supreme reckoning" challenged those he held responsible for slandering him. The tragedy underlined the need for

caution in talking and writing so as not to prejudice anyone without a trial, the Prime Minister said.

But Mr Ehud Olmert, a Likud opposition MP alleged that the ruling establishment was crying "witch-hunt" in order to deter an investigation. Pro-Government newspapers this morning had said that legal experts believed the inquiry must be shelved since the subject of it had died. If that was a trial balloon Mr Olmert quickly shot it down.

"The problem is not Ofer," he said. "If indeed offences were committed, it is not clear he was the only person involved."

Meanwhile, the Knesset today voted to dissolve itself and to hold parliamentary elections on May 17. Mr Rabin, who yesterday was given 21 days by President Katzir to try to form another government in place of the three-party coalition that fell last month, will not now be required to make the effort.

He will continue to head his caretaker administration until a new government gets a parliamentary majority after the May elections.

Leading article, page 13

In brief

Moscow adjusts many prices

Moscow, Jan 5.—The Soviet Government has announced price adjustments to a wide range of goods and services.

The state prices committee announced that 10 items would cost from 5 to 25 per cent less from today, including stockings, women's shoes, refrigerators, record players, radios and some television sets. Among the items subjected to price increases will be rugs, crystal, some books, air tickets and taxi fares. The cost of basic goods will not change.

Strikes crumble

Colombo, Jan 5.—Postal and telegraph workers and busmen in Sri Lanka called off threatened strikes after the Government issued orders under which all strikers would have lost their jobs.

Delhi jail protest

Delhi, Jan 5.—Miss Marie Andre Leclerc, aged 31, a Canadian in jail here since July who is due to face charges alleging implication in the murder of several foreign tourists, has gone on hunger strike to protest about prison conditions.

Beating the jams

Zagreb, Jan 5.—The Nigerian Government will ban half the capital's cars from main roads in an effort to prevent traffic jams during the coming Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture.

Ethiopia-Sudan tension

Addis Ababa, Jan 5.—Ethiopia and Sudan have recalled their ambassadors from each other's capitals for consultations on strained relations between the two countries, informed sources said.

Family split

Brisbane, Jan 5.—William Renton, a convicted murderer, has asked if he can serve his life sentence in a different jail from his son, Bruce, who is also a convicted murderer.

1,200 election arrests

Tokyo, Jan 5.—More than 1,200 people, most of whom are accused of buying votes, have been arrested in Japan for offences connected with last month's general election.

—AP

—Agence France Presse

—AFP

—UPI

—EPA

—Tass

SPORT

Racing

Uncle Leslie can run rivals into ground in Ditchdiggers Hurdle

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

The four-year-old Australian, *Uncle Leslie*, No. 4, the veteran racing, will run at Taunton today, which means he is aged 42, the hours to be run by the United 7-5, 3-4, though it was the last he had played in 1974. "I am not getting the right time to get into the race," he said, "but I am getting the right time to get into the race." The tall, powerful Lewis, by

from Middlesex, won his first race when he started Tom Gorman, 6-6, and fine form overwhelmed him.

He has not displayed his usual form, but he used to lead England each time he took home a win from the event, a winning record with a 100% record.

It is not clear whether he has been beaten by his trainer, who has won 10 races in a row.

Uncle Leslie has won 10 races in a row, including the Ditchdiggers Hurdle with Uncle

There is already every reason for thinking that Uncle Leslie is completely at ease racing around Taunton because he has won twice there, first over two miles and three furlongs and then again over three miles and a furlong which happens to be the distance of today's race. Each time the going has testing so Uncle Leslie should not be inconvenienced by the ground this afternoon which is bound to put the emphasis on stamina. In the circumstances he looks a good bet to record his third win on the course. His overall record this season is more than consistent which is more than can be said of the majority of his rivals.

Another course specialist, Sixer, returns to his happy hunting ground to try to win the Norton Fitzwarren Handicap Steeplechase. Sixer has virtually disappeared and, provided there is no more overcast weather, he will be a favourite by another of his age, the 13-year-old Redders Boy, who ran so well against Flying Orchid and Prince Rock at Chelstow just before Christmas.

Redders Boy could be the second leg of a double for his rider, P. Hobbs, who would appear to have an excellent chance of winning the first division of the Phoenixman's Novice Steeplechase. Redders Boy has been trained not all that far from the course at Bridgwater by John Thorne. Arctic Heir may not be anything out of the ordinary, but he still looks in a class of his own. Today to say that his opposition does not amount to much is an understatement.

STATE OF GOING (official): Taunton: Firm. Haydock Park: Soft. Sandown Park: Soft.

Sharing doping detection

Jockey Club scientists, who announced recently that they had discovered traces of anabolic steroids in the urine of some of their counterparts in Ireland and France.

The breakthrough came after years of research at Racecourse Security Services. "We are unanimous in our intention of introducing a common policy", a Jockey Club spokesman said.

Bannow Rambler finds distinction in victory

Bannow Rambler was the only favourite to win at Fairyhouse, the only race meeting in Britain yesterday. Both Doncaster and Lingfield were abandoned. Bannow Rambler, a four-year-old son of the Swell, was ridden by a jockey from a 12-1 chance for the Cheltenham Gold Cup with William Hill.

The race was slow, run over two and a quarter miles. Vulcainbo was second and San Genaro 20 lengths further away third. Tertius had a half chance for the Gold Cup, added a jockey from a 12-1 chance for the Cheltenham Gold Cup with William Hill.

"Thank goodness," Bannow Rambler made no serious mistakes today," said his trainer, Padge Berry, as Michael Furlong dis-

mounted. "But I would like to see him run again before making a definite decision about Cheltenham."

"He has a choice between a condition over the English or the Irish Gold Cup at Cheltenham," added a jockey from a 12-1 chance for the Cheltenham Gold Cup with William Hill.

"The race was slow, run over two and a quarter miles. Vulcainbo was second and San Genaro 20 lengths further away third. Tertius had a

half chance for the Gold Cup with William Hill.

"Thank goodness," Bannow Rambler made no serious mistakes today," said his trainer, Padge Berry, as Michael Furlong dis-

Taunton programme

1.0 PLOUGHMAN'S STEEPECHASE (Div I: Novices: 5424: 2m)

1-200	Arctic Heir	1.1-12	M. Hobbs	Mr. W. Turner
2-000	Blackwater Hill	1.1-12	C. Parker	Mr. G. Thompson
3-000	Crocker	1.1-12	F. McKeown	Mr. J. M. Smith
4-000	Dorsale	1.1-12	D. Sunderland	Mr. S. C. Stimpson
5-000	Great Surprise	1.1-12	G. Parker	Mr. J. A. Walker
6-000	Hill	1.1-12	C. Parker	Mr. J. A. Walker
7-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
8-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
9-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
10-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
11-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
12-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
13-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
14-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
15-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
16-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
17-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
18-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
19-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
20-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
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23-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
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73-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
74-000	P. Hobbs	1.1-12	T. Hall	Mr. J. A. Walker
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Fashion



Photograph by Warren Harrison

Norman Hartnell's sketches for two of his creations. On the left, a black wedding dress of lace over satin. On the right, the Queen's Paris Opera dress

Hartnell: The Norman conquest

*"Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with golden and silver light,
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths
Of night and light and the half light,
I would spread the cloths under your feet."*

So wrote Years. For night, read knight. At long last the designer whose popular fame resides in the coruscating spangles with which he has decked our native royal deities for nearly half a century has been honoured with the KCVO. Only the American Norman Norell could match sequins with Hartnell, though Rose Kennedy, when her husband was American Ambassador to London, recalls an occasion when the beads on her dress—it was of turquoise satin, but she does not tell us who by, —became enmeshed with those on the pink satin gown of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth now

case the famous Lucile, Lady Duff-Gordon, sister of Eleanor Glyn, patron of Molyneaux, who won a newspaper competition offering a place in her diminishing salon. He made Barbara Cartland's first wedding dress—long, ruffle frills, where short sharp beads were all the thing—and her book *The Isthmus Years* is filled with recollections of his charm and generosity.

Charles Creed, Worth, Molyneaux, Redfern, were all English names famous in Paris when

were all English names famous in Paris when Norman Hartnell showed his first collection there in 1928. Afterwards, the great American designer Mainbocher who has just died (his real name was Main Bocher, but it was the era of the run-together, like Louisboulanger) told him: "I have never seen so many incredibly beautiful dresses so incredibly badly made."

But great things beckoned. The young Hartnell got the job of designing the wedding dress for Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott

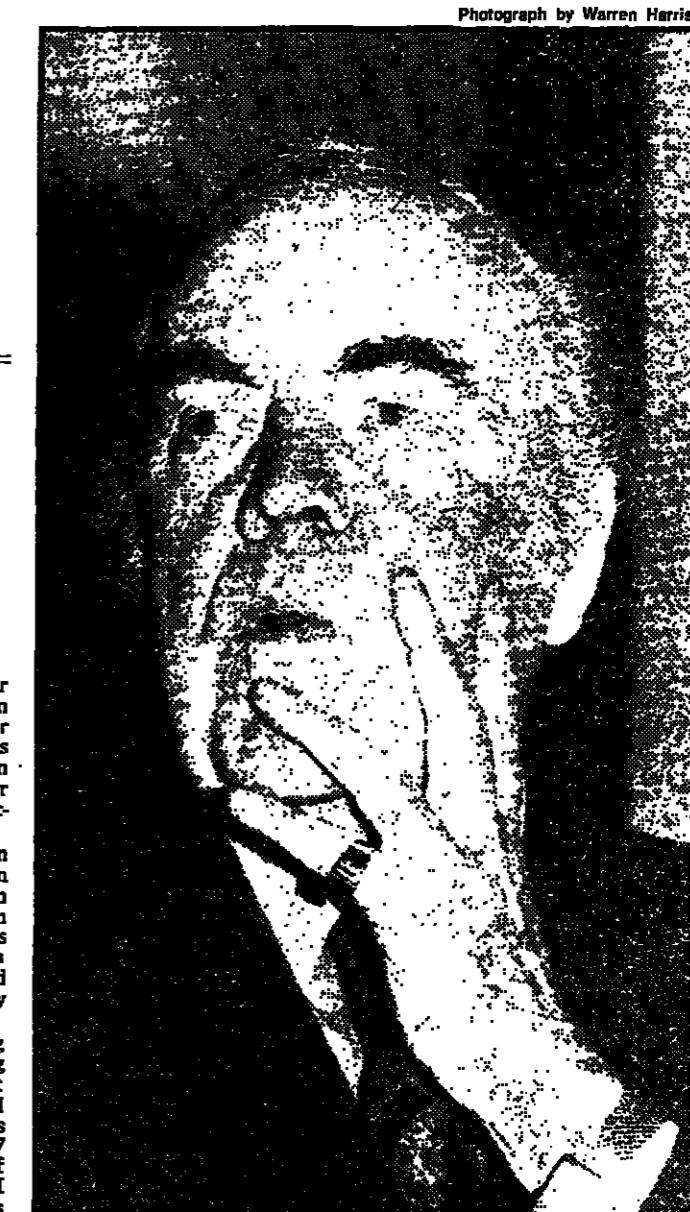
dress for Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott when she married the Duke of Gloucester, and dressed the bridesmaids, who included Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose. In 1933 he provided the dresses for the Maids of Honour at the Coronation of King George V and Queen Elizabeth, but not, as is sometimes stated, the Queen's robe, which was done by Madame Handley-Seymour, and the sketch of which by Irene Segalla some readers may remember from this page in the past. From there on the story is familiar; the Winterhalter inspired crinolines, the white outfits for the Queen's state visit to Paris when she was in mourning, the war service with ideas for utility clothes, the total assimilation into royal style, with all its demands and all its implications for a

with all it demanded and all it implies for a creative mind which should always be moving on.

Norman Hartnell himself says that his career has had three phases. To begin with, he was famous for ingenue, pretty dresses for innocent young girls. Then he discovered his love for the stage and began to dress very sexy, very sophisticated women who inspired him and taught him another tack in design. Then all his private clients wanted to look sexy, too. Hartnell was the Jacques Fath, you could say. Then Royalty struck, the briefs were inordinate, lengths predetermined, colours specified, construction geared to what had got to be pinned to what. It made me laugh to read that some peeress had found herself wearing what she thought was the same dress as the Queen at the recent opening of Parliament, because I happen to know that the Queen, sensible as always, never wears a new dress for an occasion on which heavy, cumbersome robes which pull at the shoulders of the dress and, anyway, hide 90 per cent of it, are also on the ensemble, quite apart, of course, from the fact that no-one ever has a dress exactly like the

Then all the customers wanted the Royal style, or as near to it as was permissible, and as Royal style has moved inexorably away from high fashion, into the ikon mould which brings comfort and confidence to people when the idea of a monarchy is both more scarce and too many irrelevant, so Hartnell was caught in what I call the Royal cul-de-sac, famous, yes, able to branch out, no. The sweetest and most charming of men, he has taken the limitations imposed on him without a word of complaint, indeed with joy and devotion, to his Ladies whom he so well understands and serves; and if there are barbed comments, jokes even, at the expense of

certain Royal tenues be sweeps past them. But to those who take a broader view his potential must be the ever-arguable point. Indubitably greater than Molyneaux, more fun than Dior, as jazzy as Bill Gibb, imbued with a passion for theatre design, would Hartnell have been Erte, Edith Head, Georgardis, Adrian? Who knows; at any rate he is Sir Norman now.



Sir Norman Hartnell

EXCLUSIVE JANUARY SALE

A black and white photograph of a quilted bedspread or duvet cover with a dark floral pattern on a light background. A large, stylized text overlay on the left side reads "Superb Continental Quilt Cover & Pillowcase Sets from only £3.99".

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Appointments Vacant also on page 16

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

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Taylor Woodrow International Limited have the above vacancy in their Head Office. Applicants must have good secretarial and typing skills and be over 22 years of age.

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For job description and application form please contact the Personnel Officer, Directorate of Administrative and Legal Services, Lambeth Town Hall, Britton Hill, London SW2 1RW (Tel.: 01-276 7722, Ext. 326). Closing date for receipt of applications 26th January, 1977.

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Parents welcome at interview

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FOR ONE OF BRITAIN'S
FASTEST GROWING
ORGANISATIONS

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Although support for the charity has increased steadily over the last three years alone, the need money is great and much more will not be easy. Therefore we are looking for someone who can help to develop, imagination and initiative in running an entrepreneurial business to a humanitarian cause.

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Charity experience is not necessary, but a general appreciation of the disabled is mandatory and guide a small U.K. staff to be based overseas.

Salaries will be commensurate to the responsibility and the ability to contribute; pension scheme and other fringe benefits are included.

Write in confidence, giving brief career details and stating salary requirements, enclosing a covering letter that you could reasonably expect to be asked.

Please write to Frank Baker, Action in Distress, 139 Oxford Street, London, W1, quoting ref. JT/40.

OIL INDUSTRY SPECIALIST

A staff writer on MPEF is required with considerable background knowledge of the oil industry.

The successful applicant will not necessarily have journalistic experience but must have a wide ranging knowledge of oil and gas production and marketing. Write to the Editor with full C.V.

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Tel: 01-387 3601

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Required by Metshers & Hartley, Chartered Surveyors of St. Albans, Herts, for a young negotiator with minimum 3 yrs' experience in residential lettings and sales, letting and acquisition of residential properties in central London.

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APPLY BUREAU OF PERSONNEL, UNESCO,
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Portraits of the men who will make up the new EEC Commission in Brussels

Decision day for the 12 members of the Jenkins team

Mr François-Xavier Ortoli
President of the European Commission for the past four years, Mr Ortoli is seen as aacecent by staying on as one of the five vice-presidents of the new Commission.

During his presidency, he has earned a reputation as a highly competent but somewhat colourless technocrat with a formidable grasp of the whole range of the Community's affairs. But this desiccated image conceals a much warmer private person.

He was never at ease with the press and seldom made public pronouncements as he did not like to do so in the heat of delivering lengthy discourses on high-minded European themes almost uncannily resistant to quotation.

As a former Gaulist Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance (1968-69), M Ortoli, who was born in 1925, has a strong claim to the Commission's equivalent portfolio. He believes passionately that it is important for the EEC not to lose sight of the goal of economic and monetary union.

Mr Claude Cheysson
As the second French member of the new Commission, M Cheysson will be hoping to consolidate his reputation as one of the most effective operators of the outgoing body.

He made his name as the architect of the Louvois Convention. Signed in February 1975, with 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, the Convention is widely regarded as a genuine innovation in relations between industrialized and developing countries.

Finding an equally challenging job for M Cheysson in the new Commission will not be easy, since looking after the Louvois Convention itself is now little more than a managerial function.

No sufferer from false modesty, M Cheysson can be a prickly customer. He is a socialist, and has not been afraid to make enemies, falling out with the Quai d'Orsay over the fifties over his support for independence for Algeria.

He was born in 1920 and is a small, dapper figure, who enjoys parading his command of carefully modulated English at Brussels press conferences.

Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp
Like their French colleagues, the two new German Commissioners are simply old Communists reappointed for another four years.

Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp's re-nomination as a vice-

president is thought to be largely due to the backing of the Confederation of German Trade Unions on whose federal executive he sat immediately before moving to Brussels in 1967.

Putting it at its kindest, his conduct of the Commission's important economic and monetary affairs department over the past four years can only be described as uninspiring. The impression has been of someone out of his depth.

Mr Jenkins's badly mishandled, but unfortunately well-publicized attempts to persuade Herr Helmut Schmidt to nominate a replacement will hardly make for the smoothness of working relationships.

Born in 1923, Herr Haferkamp was wounded in the last war, took a degree in economics at Cologne University immediately after it, and moved exclusively in trade union circles before his translation to Brussels.

Mr Guido Brunner
Mr Guido Brunner, the second German Commissioner, is equally lacking in charisma, though he is generally reckoned to be able and to have made the best of a particularly thankless portfolio during his time in Brussels.

Blame for the halting progress of the EEC's scientific research policy—epitomized by the stalemate among the Nine over the site of the Joint European Torus thermonuclear fusion project—can hardly be laid at his door.

As the choice of the Free Democrat wing of the West German Coalition, Dr Brunner is close to Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister. He is understood to covet the Commission's external affairs portfolio vacated by Sir Christopher Soames, which may now be subdivided.

Technically he would be well qualified for the job, having held a series of diplomatic posts before coming to Brussels in 1974 to replace Dr Rolf Dahrendorf. But his lack of presence and political clout are a handicap.

He was born in 1930 in Madrid, and studied law at the universities of Madrid, Munich and Heidelberg.

Mr Antonio Giolitti

Among the more interesting newcomers to the Commission is Signor Antonio Giolitti, one of the two new Italian members. He joined the Communist Party after the war, having been active in the Italian resistance, becoming Under-Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

At three o'clock this afternoon Mr Roy Jenkins and the 12 other new European Commissioners will retire into Papal conclave on the 13th floor of the Berlaymont building in Brussels. Some—possibly many—hours later the new President is expected to emerge with a list of the jobs which have been allocated.

Although *primus inter pares*, Mr Jenkins ultimately has no greater say than any of his colleagues in this

delicate exercise since the allocation of each portfolio is finally decided by a majority vote of the 13-man body. His role will be one of persuasion and attempting to guide the bargaining in the direction he desires.

Once the job share-out is over, there is still a final formality to be completed. Next Tuesday Mr Jenkins and the rest of his team will take an oath before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, promising

"Neither to seek nor to take instruction from any government or body".

The oath symbolizes the supposed transmogrification of national politicians temporarily seconded to Brussels into "Europeans", impartial and implacable guardians of the Rome Treaty, immune to special pleading from home capitals. Clothed in this new aura, the Commissioners then present themselves to the European Parliament.



The Commissioners, from the left: Ortoli, Haferkamp, Davignon, Jenkins, Natali, Tugendhat, Vredeling, Vouel, Gundelach, Giolitti, Brunner, Cheysson, Burke.

in the first Republican Government. He resigned from the Communist Party in 1957 after the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

Since then, Signor Giolitti has been prominent in the Socialist Party and was Minister for the Budget and Economic Planning in the 1964, 1970-72 and 1973-74 centre-left governments.

In 1974 he represented Italy at the fourth special session of the United Nations General Assembly and in the same year was President of the Council of Ministers of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

He is the author of books on European communism and socialism and gave a series of

lectures on political themes in Britain in 1973 and 1975. He was born in 1915 and graduated in law.

Mr Lorenzo Natali
A member of the Christian Democrat Party, Signor Lorenzo Natali has previous experience of the EEC as Italian Minister for Agriculture. As one of the vice-presidents of the new Commission, he will now be looking at the Community from a rather different perspective.

His other ministerial jobs have included spells as Minister for the Merchant Navy, for Tourism and Entertainment, and for Public Works. Born in Florence in 1922.

Natali was a volunteer in the Italian Liberation Corps in 1944, was wounded in action and decorated for bravery. A lawyer by training, he has been returned to the Italian Parliament by the Abruzzi constituency for seven consecutive terms of office.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat
A little-known quantity in Brussels, Mr Christopher Tugendhat was a surprise choice for the second British Commissioner after Mr Jenkins and Mr Callaghan had turned down Mr John Davies, Mrs Thatcher's first candidate for the post.

Now 39, the former Conser-

vative MP for the City of London and Westminster, South, is the youngest member of the new Commission. At the time of his nomination he was junior opposition spokesman on foreign affairs.

After education at Ampleforth and Cambridge, where he was President of the Union, he spent 10 years on the *Financial Times* as a leader and feature writer specializing in energy questions.

He has written two well received books—*Oil: The Biggest Business* and *The Multinationals*—both of which are relevant to the EEC, though it seems unlikely for political reasons that Mr Tugendhat will get the Commission's energy

portfolio. He has also published a pamphlet on the EEC and the Third World.

Viscount Etienne Davignon
Only four years older than Mr Tugendhat, Belgium's new man on the Commission, Viscount Etienne Davignon, is already a well-known figure on the European stage and beyond.

As Director-General of Political Affairs in the Belgian Foreign Ministry he made certain at least one footnote in the history books by lending his name to the so-called Davignon Committee, which since 1969 has brought together senior foreign officials of the Nine to discuss political cooperation outside the strict framework of the Rome Treaty.

In 1974 he was made chair-

man of the International Energy Agency, the American-spon-

sored body set up after the quadrupling of oil prices in

1973 in an attempt to coordinate the energy policies of the industrialized countries.

Upbeat and debonair, with flawless English, Viscount Davignon is the son of a distinguished diplomat. He was born in Budapest, and graduated in law from Louvain University.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach
Danish representative on the Commission remains unchanged with the re-appointment of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, 51, who becomes one of the five vice-

presidents of the new body.

A career diplomat before coming to Brussels, he has spent most of the past four years nurturing the Community's customs union, an onerous and ungainly task for which he got few thanks and little publicity.

But as a result of the illness of Sir Christopher Soames last year he suddenly found himself thrust into the limelight entrusted with the conduct of important trade negotiations with Japan and delicate discussions with the Icelanders over British fishing rights.

His blunt warning to the Japanese that they must take steps to redress their trade imbalance with the EEC or face the consequences caused something of a furor.

Mr Gundelach is regarded as being almost certain to get the agricultural portfolio formerly held by Mr Pierre Lardinios.

Mr Henk Vredeling
A little-known quantity in Brussels, Mr Henk Vredeling, the new Dutch member of the Commission, is virtually unknown outside the Luxembourg world of Luxembourg politics. Mr Raymond Vouel joined the Commission last year to replace the late Mr Alain Solerche. His few months in Brussels have done little to illuminate the obscurity whence he came.

He remains on the Jenkins Commission as the Luxembourg member. He has yet to give a press conference in Brussels, and has declined all requests for interviews. There are many people who do not even know what he looks like.

Curiously, he began his career as a journalist specializing in political affairs, then served as the director of a hospital and a town councillor in Esch before joining the Luxembourg Government in 1964 as a socialist.

appointment to the Commission, he was often at odds with his equally outspoken compatriot, Dr Josef Luns, the Secretary-General of Nato.

Criticism from Nato headquarters of Dutch defence cuts once provoked Mr Vredeling to say that he would "like to kick Dr Luns' head between the god-paws".

As a member of the Dutch Labour Party, Mr Vredeling, 52, is an expert on agricultural questions and has an outside chance to get the farm portfolio, one of the Commission's key jobs.

Mr Richard Burke
Ireland's new man on the Commission, Mr Richard Burke, seems fated to spend his early months in Brussels living down the unlikable reputation which has preceded him from Dublin.

An unfortunate manner with the press, who find him stiff and unhelpful and ultra-conservative social and political opinions, which place him on the clerical, right-wing of the Fine Gael, appear to account for this unhappy advance billing.

Mr Burke, 44, is understood to owe his Brussels job to his close association with Mr Liam Cosgrave, the Irish Prime Minister. Fine Gael chief whip from 1969 to 1972, he was Minister of Education at the time of his appointment to the Commission.

He was educated by the Christian Brothers, and subsequently trained as a lawyer. Mr Burke is remembered for having voted in 1974 against a Bill that would have legalized the sale of contraceptives to married couples.

Mr Raymond Vouel
Virtually unknown outside the Luxembourg world of Luxembourg politics, Mr Raymond Vouel joined the Commission last year to replace the late Mr Alain Solerche. His few months in Brussels have done little to illuminate the obscurity whence he came.

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Michael Hornsby

Bernard Levin

The simple truth about Mrs Gandhi and her path to dictatorship

Yesterday, I gave an account of the further substantial progress towards a dictatorship made by Mrs Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, with the Bill (passed by a tamed Parliament, from which many Opposition leaders have been removed) to indefinite detention without trial to re-write the Indian Constitution. The Constitution (44th Amendment) Bill, which I call the Legislation for Covernances, contains, as I recounted, provisions which would make the basic democratic rights of Indians illegal. It gives Mrs Gandhi powers to ban any kind of political activity critical of her regime, enable her to enact repressive measures without even the formal sanction of Parliament, destroy the safeguard against dictatorship provided by the political independence of the President, and make permanent the authoritarian laws and decrees instituted under the State of Emergency (including the censor ship of the press and the imprisonment of political opponents).

Today, I want to give further details of the way in which the Legislation makes Mrs Gandhi's path to dictatorship easier, and in particular to describe the ways in which it removes or circumvents the most important barrier in that path, the independence and reserve powers of the judiciary.

To start with, the Legislation provides that the High Courts of the individual states will no

longer have power to examine the constitutionality of any Central law. (Central law means Federal law as opposed to the laws of the states. But this provision covers not only Acts of Parliament but all administrative rules, decrees and orders made by the Executive under any Statute.)

Next, the citizen's right to challenge decisions of State tribunals in the High Court has been removed; an individual can now only proceed direct to the Supreme Court. His right to do so is rigidly circumscribed in the Legislation, which limits the range of such petitions to the Constitutionality of any law or other measure that will be valid unless two-thirds of the judges on the bench deciding the case are of that opinion.

In any case, Mrs Gandhi's Legislation will reduce judicial review of law, hitherto an integral part of the Indian Constitution, as of the American, to a point at which it becomes virtually meaningless anyway. For from now on, any amendment to the Constitution may be challenged by anybody in any court, on any ground. Since, as I explained yesterday, the Legislation gives Mrs Gandhi effectively untrammeled power to alter the Constitution in future by decree, this means that if any provision of it should prove awkward in thwarting her aims or actions, or if judges, though restricted, still manage to defend important sections of it, the embarrassing items may be removed

without difficulty and without any redress in law at all.

The reason for this particular provision of the Legislation is particularly interesting. One of the obstacles to Mrs Gandhi's claim that tearing up the Constitution is necessary because essential economic measures are being blocked under it, the Bharati case, has been removed. In the Supreme Court of the United States in the early days of Roosevelt's New Deal, prevented any encroachment on the property rights of the wealthy. In fact, examination of the Indian Supreme Court's record in this field shows that they have not, legislation on

such matters as land reform, the Privy Purse, and bank nationalization, been upheld by the Supreme Court. The truth is that the Bharati case stands in the way not of economic reforms, but of Mrs Gandhi's attempt, in a previous measure purporting to amend the Constitution (but blocked by the Supreme Court), to put her election beyond challenge by corrupt practices, and also of her move (likewise stopped for the moment by judicial action) to give herself and her chief political cronies complete immunity from prosecution for criminal offences committed during their tenure of office or even before.

There are other provisions in the Legislation which are clearly designed to enhance the power of the Executive still further. Many matters, for instance, are to be withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the High Courts and ruled upon instead by Tribunals (much more easily controlled by Mrs Gandhi's regime); nor are these, by any means, only trivial matters which take up the courts' time unnecessarily. One of the main reasons for blocking legislation in the field of economic reform is the way that the Supreme Court of the United States in the early days of Roosevelt's New Deal prevented any encroachment on the property rights of the wealthy. In fact, examination of the Indian Supreme Court's record in this field shows that they have not, legislation on

such matters as land reform, the Privy Purse, and bank nationalization, been upheld by the Supreme Court. The truth is that the Bharati case stands in the way not of economic reforms, but of Mrs Gandhi's attempt, in a previous measure purporting to amend the Constitution (but blocked by the Supreme Court), to put her election beyond challenge by corrupt practices, and also of her move (likewise stopped for the moment by judicial action) to give herself and her chief political cronies complete immunity from prosecution for criminal offences committed during their tenure of office or even before.

Beside this massive deployment of the weapons of oppression, there is one further provision in the Legislation which may seem to represent only small arms fire, and could well be dealt with, but is not the less significant in what it symbolizes. Under the present law, members of either the Central or a State legislature who have been found guilty of corrupt electoral practices are subject to disqualification from membership for specified periods. But under the Legislation, the President (nominally) and the Legislature also strips him entirely of independent powers and obliges him to act only as directed by the executive) has the absolute power to decide what period of disqualification, if any, corrupt MPs are to suffer. As Mrs Gandhi's moves against democracy took place when, and because, she was herself convicted of such practices and liable to be disqual-

fied from office under the law, the purposes of what she now proposes is not difficult to understand.

The 59 Clauses of the Constitution (44th Amendment) Bill contain a great deal more than, in this column and yesterday's, I have been able to review. But all the provisions are directed to the same end: that is, the transformation of India from a gravely imperfect democracy into a dictatorship run by Mrs Indira Gandhi. If the Bill is passed (it has gone through the Central Parliament, and now awaits ratification by the States, which it seems certain to get) the Indian Constitution will be a dead letter, the safeguards against tyranny destroyed, the power given to Mrs Gandhi limitless. Her apologists argue that although the Legislation gives her the opportunity to become a complete dictator, she will not take it. The answer is twofold: first, she has already taken, even under the present Constitution, a wide range of dictatorial powers, and committed a wide range of oppressive acts (many of them, such as the destruction of the freedom of the press, largely illegal). Secondly, most of the tyrannous provisions of what she is now demanding are entirely unnecessary except to one who wants total power and the ability to use it without check.

The truth is that Mrs Gandhi wants to be a dictator, and is going to be. She is going to be discredited, her supporters will turn against her, and she will be forced to leave office. This is what happened to General Pinochet in Chile, and to General Jaruzelski in Poland. The truth is that Mrs Gandhi's moves against democracy took place when, and because, she was herself convicted of such practices and liable to be disqual-

ified from office under the law, the purposes of what she now proposes is not difficult to understand.

Also lacking were some and the usual wine bar sandwich, game pie. A restaurant section upstairs offered pork chops and mushrooms in wine sauce at £1.10, but I stayed below and chose pâté and salad (70p plus 30p for each portion of various salads, however small) in preference to a flabby and pale quickie lorraine.

Chesse was 50p, but the bri- ve wine underlined, the port salut looked delicious and the cheese were no English cheeses left. There was no vintage port, except a late vintage Taylor's 1971. All right for a hurried snack, but not the place for a celebration if you do well at the sales. My bill was £2.77.

Next: Con



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NOT TOO PETTY FOR A JURY

Trial by jury, to the British, is more than a procedural device for deciding whether a person accused of crime is guilty or not. It is deeply embedded in the national consciousness as a bulwark against tyranny, a safeguard for the individual against oppression by the state, and one of the distinguishing features of a free society. It has worked well in the past and, for the most part, continues to do so. It must therefore not be restricted severely unless that is absolutely necessary for the fair and efficient functioning of the system of criminal justice.

The Criminal Law Bill, now before the House of Lords, includes provisions which would remove the right of electing trial by jury from defendants in specified categories of cases. The most controversial provision would make theft and similar offences involving amounts of less than £20 triable only in the magistrates' courts.

No one disputes that conviction for such "trivial" thefts may bring severe consequences for the convicted person (and his or her family): loss of standing and reputation in his own community, club, place of employment or social circle—a misfortune which is not confined to any one class or condition of person; or being dismissed from employment and having great difficulty in finding a decent alternative job.

The James committee, on whose recommendation that part of the Bill is based, took the view that the interests of society in having the pressures on the overburdened Crown Court eased, so reducing delays in awaiting trial, outweighed any possible adverse effects to individual defendants.

It has been questioned whether delays in the Crown Court are in fact so inordinate as to warrant such far-reaching measures. It has also been pointed out that the problem is mainly confined to London and the South-east and that, if it is in precisely these areas that there are also substantial delays in cases coming to trial in the magistrates' courts. If that were right, the proposed change would be unnecessary in the provinces and would not have the desired effect in London.

It is difficult to assess exactly what effect the implementation of that part of the Bill would have in practice. The tentative estimate is that over 3,000 cases of "trivial" theft would be removed annually from the higher to lower courts, although

that does not tell us to what extent delays would be reduced. The trend, however, is for delays in the Crown Court to be increasing again after a period of relative stability. The standstill in the building and expansion programme for the courts, caused by the public expenditure cuts, is likely to confirm that trend for at least a few years.

The question therefore poses itself as a straightforward choice between securing less delay in awaiting trial for the generality of defendants at the possible expense of those who would be denied trial by jury, or retaining the existing procedure in the knowledge that it would make the administration of criminal justice slower, and possibly deny, by delaying justice for some.

Implicit in the argument is the belief that justice for the innocent defendant is more certain before a jury, or, to put it another way, that a wrongful conviction is more likely in a magistrates' court.

Magistrates, it is said, are prosecution minded; that they are too ready to accept uncritically evidence given by the police; and that they still suffer from the blinkers of their largely middle-class membership. Juries are said to be more willing to disbelieve police witnesses and more likely to understand the evidence of and be sympathetic to, young, working-class, or black defendants.

The availability of any or any adequate legal representation is much more uncertain in magistrates' courts, whereas in the Crown Court a defendant pleading not guilty is virtually certain to get proper representation under legal aid.

A further reason for choosing trial by jury is that in the higher court the defence knows exactly what the prosecution case is. A source of constant complaint about magistrates' courts has been that the defence often has little idea of what evidence prosecution witnesses are likely to give. One recommendation of the James committee, inexplicably not adopted by the Government, would have made it easier for the defence in magistrates' courts to obtain copies of the prosecution witnesses' statements at an early stage.

It is likely that in all but a very small proportion of cases the result would be the same whatever the forum of the trial. The fact is, however, that many people believe in, and wish to choose, jury trial, and their right

to do so should not be lightly removed. So far as "trivial" thefts are concerned, the case for removing the choice has not been made out. Although there are some examples in English law of offences involving dishonesty being triable only by magistrates (for instance, intentionally avoiding paying railway fares), in general such offences, which import consequences other than those directly imposed by the law, are thought to warrant the right to elect trial by jury. That is a sound principle and ought to continue to be followed.

Different considerations apply to drinking and driving offences, the other large category of cases (over 3,000) which the Bill would remove from the higher courts. There is little social stigma attached to being convicted of drunken driving (the more's the pity, many would say), the penalties do not involve loss of liberty and, with the exception of a disqualification for someone whose livelihood depends on driving, the other consequences of conviction are likely to be minor. In these cases the limitation of trial by jury is justified.

The Bill has also come under criticism for removing that right in two other, numerically smaller, categories of cases, assaulting the police and importuning by male homosexuals. A high degree of moral obloquy accompanies conviction for the latter offence, and unpleasant extra-legal consequences are likely to follow. Defendants should therefore be entitled to the trial of their choice. In the case of assault against the police, a significant number of prosecutions are brought in which the defendants are black, and in view of the current state of tension between their community and the police, and of the feeling which exists in some circles that whatever the colour of the defendant magistrates are strongly predisposed to believe the police version, the right to trial by jury should stand.

By retaining the provisions in the Bill making drink-and-drive offences criminal damage involving under £100, and some other minor categories triable only by magistrates, while abandoning those provisions doing the same for petty thefts, male importuning and assaulting the police, the Crown Court would still be relieved of nearly 8,000 cases which the reform was expected to achieve.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHREY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard,
Chiswick W4.
January 4.

From John Lee, MP for Birmingham Handsworth (Labour)

Sir, Charles Fletcher Cooke's interesting letter (January 4) upon the change occasioned by the absence of hereditary peerage creations raises even wider constitutional issues than perhaps he realises.

Sooner or later the question has to be faced as to whether or not the ancient practice whereby hereditary peerages—variably of senior rank—are conferred upon members of the Royal Family is still to continue. If it is, then, assuming no further hereditary creations in the Honours Lists, the extraordinary situation will arise of there being a gradual increase in the number of Dukes and Earls (as each generation of the Royal Family grows up), whilst the rest diminish with extinctions. If, on the other hand, the practice of the past is not to continue, then a profound change will take place in the character of the Monarchy; and that without any debate or legislation in Parliament.

This being Jubilee Year, I sought the other day to put down a Parliamentary Question on the subject of Royal Peerages, only to be told by the officials of the House, no doubt quite correctly, that such questions were out of order.

I regard the hereditary right to legislate as being indefensible, but, in common with Charles Fletcher Cooke, I am resolutely opposed to constitutional change occurring by stealth.

Yours etc,
JOHN LEE,
House of Commons.
January 4.

ISRAEL'S NEWS HOUNDS

Israel has long been justly proud of its free press. It is not perfectly free, of course. There is military censorship which sometimes spills over into the political field. There is sometimes self-censorship by editors and journalists on issues which might damage Israel's international reputation, but even this is usually broken by the weekly *Hetz Olam HaZe*, which is often called the Israeli Private Eye but whose readership and influence are proportionally much greater. There is discrimination to the extent that it is not possible for Israeli Arabs to publish an explicitly Arab nationalist paper (though the Communist press provides them with the next best thing) or for the Arab nationalist papers which are tolerated in occupied East Jerusalem to advocate explicitly the abolition of the

state. But it remains true, and is to Israel's credit, that most of the source material of her external critics is published legally inside the country. Ambassador Herzog made a fair point in the United Nations Security Council last November when he asked his Arab colleagues, "What would you all do for speeches if you didn't have the free unfettered Israeli press as a source?"

It is very sad, therefore, that the week that has seen the demise of the last free press in the Arab world (with the imposition of official censorship in Lebanon) has also seen the role of the Israeli press called in question after the tragic death of a member of the Israeli government. According to the suicide note he left on Monday, Mr Avraham Ofer decided to take his own life because for weeks and months he had been

tortured, libelled and tormented" by unfounded allegations in the press that he was involved in large-scale fraud. "You journalists killed him," was the understandable retort of his family to reporters demanding comment on his death. Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, said at the funeral yesterday that his death should serve as a warning "to all who pass judgment on others without proof".

Journalists often do need reminding that those whom they write about, like Richard II, "feel want, taste grief, need friends". Libel laws, which are weaker in Israel than here, are an inadequate defence; and Truman's well-worn dictum about the heat in the kitchen is too callous to be repeated over a man's grave. The right answer can hardly be a less free press; but it should be, at least in part, a more responsible one.

Yours etc,
JOHN LEE,
House of Commons.
January 4.

THE COUNTER-FABIANS

The Institute of Economic Affairs has been surrounded by controversy since its formation twenty years ago. That is as it should have been, since its strategic purpose, or at least that of its chief entrepreneurs, has been to challenge by public argument the whole collectivist ethos that became conventional among intellectuals in the post-war era.

The Institute celebrates its first two decades of activity, even if twenty-five years would be a more usual jubilee, by publishing a retrospective synopsis of its discussions and publications (*Not from Benevolence*... by Ralph Harris and Arthur Seldon). It has succeeded in attracting many distinguished contributors to its list of authors and in encouraging examination of possible departures in economic and social policy which fewer people would now condemn as unrealistic and misanthropic than when they first appeared.

The natural comparison, when assessing the IEA, is not with purely scholarly academic institutions such as the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, but with the Fabian Society, which also sought by intelligent pamphleteering to win hearts and minds to a different conception of the role of government in society. Although the EA must still be judged a long way from achieving the historic influence of the Fabians, whose mark is clearly visible in the reflexes of almost every government in the world, it has

satisfaction of being on the offensive and of expanding its influence while the Fabians are but a shadow of their former selves.

Perhaps the most enduring achievement of the IEA so far will turn out to have been to make government itself a potential object of study, with its quota of failures, contradictions and weaknesses, rather than always being the great "I am" with which the economist and social critic has for too long in Britain tended to identify himself as the agent rather than the object of reform.

The experience of collectivism in a free society has certainly suggested that the potentialities of government as an instrument of social justice are severely limited. The greater the demands that are made on government, the further does it fail to satisfy expectations. Nor is this mainly because of any avoidable failure of policies or management. It arises directly from the irreconcilable nature of the Utopian demands made by rival interest groups on limited national resources.

As the process of allocating scarce resources becomes more and more politicized, disappointments which were previously directed without much effect at "the facts of life", the "injustice of capitalism" or the "luck of the draw" become highly focused grievances against government—any government itself. This process can only lead to an anarchic collapse of gov-

ernment in the face of the rival interest groups or to an authoritarian suspension of the right to express grievances, unless a greater area of national economic and social life is carefully and deliberately returned to non-political arbitration by the market.

In exploring how this third alternative can sensibly be undertaken the IEA has illuminated an avenue which increasingly appears more attractive from the point of view of the ordinary individual citizen than either of the other two. But, if the IEA is to win the war of ideas, it will need to convey more clearly than it has so far that to extol the benign potential of markets is not the same as to defend capitalism and that to point to the deficiencies of state power is not the same as to condemn the humane impulses of socialism.

Adam Smith himself wrote *The Wealth of Nations* as an attack on the malignancy of the natural alliance between state power and commercial vested interests; and some among the IEA's own authors have even argued the corollary, namely that there is a natural alliance—on behalf of individual sovereignty over vested interests in the ballot box, the market place and the work-place—between the advocates of free markets and the advocates of common (but not state) ownership. In this way the IEA can rid itself of the stigma of itself being an apologist for vested interests.

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I remain,
Yours faithfully,
KENNETH JORDAN,
Aquitaine House,
Gurney Slade,
Bath.

The hereditary peerage

From Mr Humphrey Berkeley

Sir, Surely the answer to Mr Charles Fletcher-Cooke (January 4) is that "the balance of the constitution" was altered by the Life Peerages Act which was introduced into Parliament and became law in 1958 by Mr Harold Macmillan's Conservative Government, when Mr Fletcher-Cooke was, himself, a Conservative member of Parliament.

A reading of the Parliamentary Debates makes it quite clear that it was the intention of Parliament to alter the composition of the House of Lords in two ways. There were to be Life Peers (apart from Law Lords, who were already Life Peers) who could be men or women. Thus

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You will be poorer this year

From Professor C. J. Constable

Sir, The importance of your leading article this morning (December 23) cannot be over emphasized. In the course of my work I talk to managers from many different companies. Almost without exception they feel they have been unfairly treated during the past two years.

Examples abound of the nonsense created by the squeeze on so-called "top salaries" and punitive tax rates. One man, working for a company which exports over 70 per cent of its output, had recently appointed a national of another European country to work as his subordinate in that country at over twice his own salary. Another was seriously considering taking a job carrying less responsibility in his own company but based on the continent and paying three times the salary.

A research director now has a virtually flat salary structure amongst his senior staff with all earning £3,500 per year. The personnel director of a US-based multinationals operating throughout Europe has, his whole senior management salary structure thrown out of gear by legislative restrictions in the UK. To him British salaries are ridiculous.

It is not, of course just managerial salaries which are now so depressed compared with continental rates. I spent the 1975-76 academic year as a visiting professor in Switzerland.

The German economy

From Lord Kaldor

Sir, Mr Derek Prag (December 30) asserts that "all my criteria" measure welfare and well-being and not the degree of socialism in West German economy. Welfare and well-being secured through social transfer expenditures, the essence of "socialist policies" as ordinarily understood, and so is workers' participation (the Webb's "industrial democracy") as a means of countering the alienation of the workers under a system of giant enterprises. In both these respects Germany is far ahead of Britain in the kind of Socialism which the British Labour movement has historically stood for—to a far greater extent than the Continental Socialist parties.

It is nonsensical to suggest that there is any relevant difference between Britain and Germany in the method of financing social transfer expenditures. In both countries they are financed by compulsory social insurance contributions on employers and workers. But whereas in Britain, according to the latest estimate of the CSO (*Economic Trends*, November 1976, p.108) the rate of contributions, expressed as a percentage of GNP at factor cost, amounts to 6.7 per cent (of which 3.7 per cent is paid by the employers) in Germany the figures are 13.5 per cent (of which 8.6 per cent is paid by the employers). Hence the compulsory transfers from the productive to the unproductive sectors of the community resulting from the welfare state are twice as great in relation to GNP in Germany as in Britain—which means that, on the economics proposed by Sir Keith Joseph, Mrs Thatcher and their friends, it is Germany, not Britain, which should be the doghouse.

The same CSO publication also dispels the myth that the burden of personal income tax is much greater in Britain than in Germany. Expressed as a percentage of GNP at factor cost the figures were practically identical in the two countries in 1974—the latest year for which figures are available—13.0 per cent as against 12.7 per cent though Mr Prag is correct in suggesting that in Germany the top marginal rates are considerably lower than in Britain.

Finally, it is equally a myth to suggest that workers' participation in industry was first introduced by the Free Democrats in coalition with the Social Democrats, and has not been revoked. Moreover, it deserves to be recalled, the Federal German Social Democratic Party, in its "Godesberg programme" of 1959 shed all totalitarianism, welcomed cooperation with religious bodies, was committed to the mixed economy, and under certain conditions accepted, one could say encouraged, private ownership. The electoral system, a form of proportional representation, proved to give a much fairer reflection of public opinion, and by the rule that the parties who failed to reach 5 per cent of the total vote, should not have parliamentary seats, excluded both extremes, the National Democrats and the Communists.

These constitutional changes were made by the German Government independently, but fundamentally the only Germany has recently given to the world through the EC may be regarded as a return for the statesmanlike action taken by the Attlee-Bevin Government in regard to the reorganization of the trade unions.

Finally, it is equally untrue to say that workers' participation in industry was first introduced by the Free Democrats in coalition with the Social Democrats, and has not been revoked. Moreover, it deserves to be recalled, the Federal German Social Democratic Party, in its "Godesberg programme" of 1959 shed all totalitarianism, welcomed cooperation with religious bodies, was committed to the mixed economy, and under certain conditions accepted, one could say encouraged, private ownership. The electoral system, a form of proportional representation, proved to give a much fairer reflection of public opinion, and by the rule that the parties who failed to reach 5 per cent of the total vote, should not have parliamentary seats, excluded both extremes, the National Democrats and the Communists.

The comparative absence of nationalised industries in Germany or in Sweden (despite an uninterrupted Socialist Government for over 40 years in the latter country)

My pre-tax salary was three times my UK salary. The academic salary structure in the UK is now so flat that the professor in charge of a large academic department receives, after tax, about 20 per cent more than a lecturer at the top of his scale. This is little compensation for the considerable additional responsibility carried.

Finally, Sir, the additional nonsense created by the squeeze on so-called "top salaries" and punitive tax rates. One man, working for a company which exports over 70 per cent of its output, had recently appointed a national of another European country to work as his subordinate in that country at over twice his own salary. Another was seriously considering taking a job carrying less responsibility in his own company but based on the continent and paying three times the salary.

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Reserves fall by \$1,027m but figures show first signs that tide has turned

By David Blake

Britain's reserves of gold and foreign currency fell by \$1,027m in December, taking them down to \$4,129m. But, although the fall in reserves leaves them at their lowest level in recent years, the December figures show the first signs that the tide has turned in the authorities' favour.

The reserves are likely to be boosted next week by a drawing of \$1,100m from the International Monetary Fund and a \$500m swap from the United States.

The December drop was more than accounted for by the repayment of \$1,545m to the nine industrial countries which gave Britain up to \$5,500m during the year.

If this repayment is excluded there are clear signs that the Bank of England was able to buy back from the foreign exchange markets some of the currency which it had sold earlier in the year in an effort to prop up the pound's value. The sum of \$444m was taken in this way.

Foreign-exchange markets were mildly-impressed by the reserve figures. The pound moved upwards during the day to close at \$1.7110, up a quarter of a cent. Its effective depreciation was 43.9 per cent, down 0.2 per cent on the day.

Two special items affected the December figures apart from the repayment of the stand-by facility. The first was that the United Kingdom postponed paying \$175m of interest owed to the United States and Canada on loans taken out just after the last war. The second was borrowing abroad of \$102m by nationalized industries.

This borrowing was carried out under a system in which the nationalized industries do not have to bear the loss they may incur from any fall in the pound's value.

However, the borrowing was almost certainly outweighed by the need for the United Kingdom to finance its deficit on current accounts which presumably imposed a strain on reserves in December.

In November, the current account deficit was \$310m.

During December, the pound rose by 5 cents to \$1.70. This reflects the Bank of England's policy of trying to smooth out fluctuations, replenish the reserves and maintain Britain's competitive position.

This year the Bank will have to tread a careful path. It must avoid putting the pound's credibility at risk, but it must also allow its value to ease if this becomes necessary to compensate for the United Kingdom's inflation rate.

UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury yesterday:

End of period	\$m.	£m.	Change in month
1971	5,582	2,526	
1972	5,846	2,528	
1973	6,478	2,787	
1974	6,789	2,880	
1975	6,429	2,883	
Oct	5,713	2,749	-145
Nov	5,806	2,775	+148
Dec	5,429	2,683	-107
Jan	6,785	3,344	+1,356
Feb	7,024	3,458	+239
March	5,905	3,082	-1,119
April	4,848	2,633	-1,057
May	5,423	3,083	+575
June	5,312	2,976	-111
July	5,370	3,010	+58
Aug	5,029	2,631	-341
Sept	5,158	3,092	+129
Oct	4,703	2,985	-455
Nov	5,163	3,118	+453
Dec	4,129	2,426	-1,027

may incur from any fall in the pound's value.

However, the borrowing was almost certainly outweighed by the need for the United Kingdom to finance its deficit on current accounts which presumably imposed a strain on reserves in December.

There is also the question of what to do with the private holdings of sterling by overseas creditors, and technical details must be settled on how money should be raised if it is needed.

One suggestion believed to have been considered is that the Bank of International Settlements should raise money in its own name in the Euromarkets.

Officials in London stress that all these problems are about the way in which a support scheme should operate. There is still believed to be agreement on the principle of setting up a scheme.

To treat a careful path. It must avoid putting the pound's credibility at risk, but it must also allow its value to ease if this becomes necessary to compensate for the United Kingdom's inflation rate.

This borrowing was carried out under a system in which the nationalized industries do not have to bear the loss they

make in their continuing opposition to the tachographs, dubbed "spies in the cab". Action by drivers in Birmingham, scheduled to begin two days ago, was called off at the last minute.

The drivers had intended to refuse to offload any vehicle fitted with a tachograph, but the move was suspended after Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said he had no intention of enforcing the installation of the devices which measure distance and record what is happening in the cab.

Despite EEC regulations confirming the use of tachographs, Mr Rodgers has said that he would prefer them not to be used in Britain, and is backing an initiative by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, for an EEC inquiry into the matter.

Mr Alan Law, TGWU Midlands trade group secretary, representing thousands of drivers, claimed victory in the campaign against the tachographs.

It may look a little too optimistic.

In current price terms, the level of manufacturing spending, on the revised Dof projection, will be about £5,000m in 1977 with upwards of £6,000m in 1978.

The revised estimate of spending this year is based on questionnaires sent out at the end of October but received in November and the first half of December when the International Monetary Fund loan negotiations were in progress and uncertainty about the Chancellor's action was high.

The crisis has already spread to the private banks. Both the

Bank of England and the

Montejo Rodriguez

and the Banco de

Santiago, Chile, Jan 5.—A

major financial crisis affecting

private investment companies

which have

prompted a revision of capital

spending forecasts by manufac-

turers in the year ahead.

The Department of Industry reported yesterday that instead of the badly needed 15 to 20 per cent increase in manufacturing investment during 1977 compared with 1976, the new projection will be for a 10 to 15 per cent rise in volume terms (measured at 1970 prices).

The suggested upswing of up to 15 per cent is still a hand-

some rise and a first cast at

intentions for next year need

to indicate a similar rise in 1978 over 1977.

However, spending on modernization of factories and machinery has been at a low level and even with a sustained growth as indicated the magnitude will only be comparable with the expenditures of 1970 and 1974 by next year.

At the same time, the Chancellor's recent forecast for a 19 per cent rise in private manufacturing between the second halves of 1976 and 1977 could not be taken for granted.

Matthew Brown & COMPANY LIMITED

Lion Brewery Blackburn

Extract from the Report and Accounts to 2nd October, 1976.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE — in £'000	1976	1975
Turnover	15,857	11,428
Trading profit	3,144	2,418
Depreciation	(375)	(263)
Interest payable	(195)	(57)
Profit/(loss) on property disposals	26	(6)
Profit before tax	2,600	2,035
Profit after tax	1,257	998
Earnings per share	8.94p	7.07p
Dividends per share (gross)	5.40p	4.32p

1976-53 weeks compared with 1975-52 weeks.

Points made by the Chairman, Mr. Cyril Ainscough in mid-December '76.

* Turnover up 37%; trading profit up 30%; pre-tax profit up 24%; earnings per share up 26%; total dividends up 25%.

* Contributions from 1975 purchase of Workington Brewery Company Limited are exceeding original expectations.

* Balance sheet strengthened by recent rights issue which will provide the means to expand sales of championship winning Slalom leger in 1977.

* Cautious optimism for increased profits in 1977 is encouraged by volume of sales thus far being well maintained.

Business, Executive & Technical Appointments wish

A very Happy, Constructive and Successful 1977 to the Country, generally, Industry and especially to their Friends and Clients.



Mr Alan Law: Opposition leader.

Shell/Esso sign outline pact on North Sea participation

By Roger Vieilvoye

Shell and Esso, the most vigorous opponents of the Government's plans for taking a majority 51 per cent in commercial oil discoveries in the North Sea, yesterday formally signed an outline participation agreement that gives them access to all their offshore production in the United Kingdom.

The two companies originally opposed the Government's participation objectives because they claimed they would need all the oil they produced from the North Sea to service their extensive United Kingdom refining and marketing.

But Mr Peter Boxendell, managing director of the Royal Dutch Shell group and chairman of Shell UK, said yesterday that the group now felt able to comply with government policy on a voluntary basis as the concept of participation had changed radically.

Mr Bean, Secretary of State for Energy, described the memoranda of principles, which he turned into a formal agreement by March 31, as a "form of planning agreement".

Under the agreement Shell and Esso have granted an option to BNOC to acquire 51 per cent of the group's offshore

production, but to sell back to the companies at the same price sufficient North Sea crude to support their United Kingdom refining.

It will also sell back North Sea crude that can be exchanged for quantities of heavier crudes from foreign sources so that the companies can produce the right mix of oils needed.

Mr Boxendell said that Shell's refining requirements this year would be 20 million tons of crude oil, of which three million would come from the North Sea.

General Accident's car rates go up 12pc

By John Brennan

Insurance Correspondent

The cost of motor insurance could fall in real terms this year as the leading insurance groups' premium rate increases well below the current rate of claims inflation.

General Accident, which holds the largest share of the market among the composite insurance groups, with more than a million policies in force covering 1.5 million vehicles, yesterday announced its first premium increase for more than a year. Premiums for private cars will rise 12 per cent and commercial vehicles by 14 per cent, from February 1. But this increase, putting GA among the top five most expensive motor insurance companies, falls short of the rate of increase in claims costs, now running at more than 15 per cent a year.

GA's increase, although the first to be announced this year, comes after a decision by the Prudential—which has not been made public—to restrict its rate increase to an average of 5 per cent from January 1 as part of the 1975-76 level and that stocks will rise.

Although the Soviet Union has said that, despite the record crop, the commitment to buy a minimum of six million tonnes of grain annually from the United States will be met, total Russian imports of grain in 1975-76 were 26 million tonnes, and some strong competition to sell this year's crop, particularly from the United States and Canada, can be expected.

The American grain export business has been slow, for some time. The Department of Agriculture has estimated 1975-77 wheat exports at 30 million tonnes, two million below those of last year. The Food and Agriculture Organization has agreed further and said that shipments may decline to 26 million tonnes.

Wheat stocks in the five major exporting areas—Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Economic Community and the United States—at the end of the 1976-77 crop year have been estimated at 56.9 million tonnes compared with 38 million tonnes provisionally estimated for 1975-76, an increase of 50 per cent.

One effect of the record harvest is that at least 100 million tonnes of wheat, a resumption of exports of wheat to Eastern Europe may be expected, in mid-1978. It had told its allies to look elsewhere for supplies.

A clear pattern of greater selectivity in rating charges is emerging throughout the industry, with disproportionate increases in rates for commercial vehicles where charges have lagged behind claim costs. Lloyd's underwriters, who insure a fifth of private motorists in Britain and 13 per cent of the total motor market, have traditionally been more selective than the companies. Unlike the companies, which made underwriting losses on their motor accounts in three of the past four years, and are unlikely to have achieved much more than break-even in 1976, Lloyd's has been in profit on motor underwriting for all but one of the past 30 years.

THE WELLCOME FOUNDATION LIMITED

Report for the year ended 28 August, 1976

1975-6 1974-5

£177,856,000 £146,833,000

Group sales £290,238,000 £212,887,000

Profit before tax £241,412,000 £26,214,000

Profit after tax and before extraordinary items £19,804,000 £11,024,000

Expenditure on research and development £23,062,000 £15,932,000

Efforts to halt strike at Cammell Laird yard

By R. W. Shakespeare

Hopes of settling the strike by 450 workers that is threatening to halt the Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead by the weekend seem to rest on continuing talks between leaders of the industry's employers' association and national officers of the boilermakers' Union.

The strike could make 4,000 other workers idle. It began on Tuesday over wage demands which, the company claims, break the Government's pay code.

But the strikers maintain that the management has gone back on a deal made 18 months ago and withdrawn a

£2-a-week allowance due to some workers.

Yesterday a management spokesman said: "For the moment the rest of the labour force is working normally. It is difficult to say how long this can continue. The strike action is bound to lead to more strikes because the men involved are key workers."

"There is no picketing of the yard and, as far as we know, no local meetings have been arranged. But the London offices of the Shipbuilders & Ship Repairers' Association are in constant touch with the situation and are also in touch with national officers of the union."

Sir David Barratt, the company's chairman, has given a warning that, although the yard has work until the end of this year, new orders are scarce and competition fierce. The yard is working on 12 ships—a destroyer and 11 bulk carriers.

The trouble with the boilermakers appears to arise from an agreement the management tried to negotiate with the Boilermakers' Union during 1975. This involved proposals for more flexible working arrangements and the retraining of some workers for fresh jobs.

While the agreement was being discussed the management says, some men

who agreed to retraining were paid an allowance of £2 a week. The company claims the full agreement was later rejected by a mass meeting of boilermakers and, before it could be renegotiated, the Government's pay policy was announced.

Because the increases could not be paid and a new agreement could not be renegotiated, the "temporary allowances" had to be withdrawn and the company's plans to push ahead with its flexibility policy abandoned.

The men gave notice of their intention to strike two weeks ago, maintaining that the allowances did not breach the pay code.

In brief

Union seeks meeting on jobs at Burtons

Union leaders are demanding an early meeting with Mr Cyril Spencer, the new chief executive of the Burton tailoring group, to clear up fears about redundancies. The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers has asked for clarification of some statements attributed to the group, suggesting that a further change in policy is about to take place.

Mr John Flood, national officer of the union's menswear section, called for a statement of what the company will do. He said that the continued shift in policy, which had been a prominent feature of the group's operations over the past five years, should speedily be brought to an end.

USDAW would insist on maximum consultation about any changes.

Private homebuilders

see continued



Mr Cyril Spencer.

100,000 new private houses will be started in the 12 months ahead." The main factor affecting confidence was uncertainty over the availability of mortgages. The federation would regret any increase in the existing 12½ per cent mortgage rate but a rise in rates was preferable to a mortgage famine.

Oil output record

World oil output hit a record 57.2 million barrels a day last year, thanks to economic recovery by the industrialized nations, stockpiling in front of the Opec new year price rises, and improved production by the communist block. Saudi output of 8.6 million barrels a day helped the Arabs to displace America as the second largest producer.

PO-suppliers partnership urged to boost telephone equipment exports

By Malcolm Brown

Establishments of a new export corporation whose prime job would be the overseas marketing of the so-called System X, the next generation of telephone equipment, will be discussed by the Post Office and its main telecommunications equipment suppliers within a few weeks.

Setting up such a body is the main recommendation of a report prepared by Sir Raymond Brown, Britain's former chief arms salesman, in the first of a series of examinations of the export potential of nationalized industry suppliers.

The report's recommendations were warmly welcomed at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, according to Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office.

The need is to establish and execute a clear, detailed and agreed export marketing strategy for the exchange equipment under development. This can only be fully achieved with the active support and commitment of the Post Office."

In addition to an export corporation Sir Raymond also suggests that Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, should have talks with Cable and Wireless International and GEC, Plessey, Standard Telephones and Cables—about disclosure of commercially sensitive information.

"I therefore recommend to the council that full consideration be given by the Department of Industry and by the Post Office to the implications for Post Office procurement of any arrangements to be established for collaboration on exports."

The report suggests that in the longer run there should be a rationalization of the three to provide a strong, unified consultancy.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

An omission from Sir Harold's team

The City has acquiesced itself to the prospect of Sir Harold Wilson and his committee investigating its affairs. Indeed, it welcomes such an inquiry if, first, it serves to destroy dangerous popular mythology about what the financial sector is up to and, second, if it is the price that must be paid for the spectre of bank and insurance companies nationalization to be removed.

Moreover, most people in the financial community, having overcome the initial shock, firmly believe that Sir Harold will, as Lord Shewsbury put it recently, conduct his study "on an objective and non-political basis". The hope is that this committee will make a real contribution to the future structure of our financial system in the same way that the Radcliffe Committee did nearly 20 years ago.

There said, there will be some unhappiness about the composition of the committee. There should have been someone in Sir Harold's team who worked in and understood the day-to-day workings of the securities market.

It is a notable omission and one which the committee may have to regret as it comes to terms with the complexity of its subject. One is bound, for example, to contrast the lack of any market specialist with the inclusion of four academics, hopefully people who are not unaware of the realities of business life.

It will be to ensure that the fund managers used houses or of income to below that of

superannuation funds are eradicated from the fund.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Business survey and December reserves shrugged aside

Nervous at first on profit-taking and a cautious business survey, shares rallied well in the afternoon session as the pound made progress and the December reserves figures proved to be no worse than feared.

Dealers reported that trade was more two-way than of late with the emphasis moving away from the industrial leaders to the second-line issues. The FT Index, 1.2 off at 10 am, gained ground thereafter and, by the close, stood 2.1 up at 582.7, a creditable performance in the opinion of most.

BP may soon take a stake in the medium-sized Butcher Field and is said to be talking to the operating consortium. The field, in block 21/1, looks promising and oil men expect an investment of around £50m by the major. At present the main British interest is through the 8 per cent held by Charterhall, whose shares trade at around 20p.

Shares with North Sea interests continued to progress and there were also good numbers of "situation" stocks.

In the fixed-interest market, continuing hopes of a gradual easing of interest rates brought fresh demand but, like equities, trade was more two-way throughout the list.

At the short end, gains were up to three-eighths, while medium and long-dated stocks, the latter further encouraged by the Government Broker's withdrawal of the long "cap" price, gained between one-eighth and one-quarter of a pence.

On the one-quarter subdued leaders pitch, ICI added 4p to 350p, Courtaulds 3p to 93p and Unilever 2p to 433p. But both Glaxo 405p and Beecham 382p were left unmoved, the last named having been changed at the close only once in the last fortnight.

Another big name to attract demand was Rank with a rise of 9p to 149p, but GEC were just a penny up at 173p awaiting capital reorganization plans.

For a variety of reasons there were some strong features to the trading in the paper sector where demand had kept 9p to the good at 192p and United Newspapers better by 6p to 204p. North Sea hopes gave a lift to Daily Mail "A" up 10p to 220p, while much better than expected figures from games group John Waddington gave the "A" shares an impressive 16p boost to 125p.

Ahead of figures due soon, McCorquodale gained 9p to end at 147p.

The prospect of a Tote monopoly meant that bookmaking issues were left out in the cold with Ladbrokes losing 2p to 90p and Coral lower by 1p to 99p. News of merger talks had Beaver 4p to the good at 41p

and CH Industrial 2p firmer to 27p. An American stake lifted Anchor Chemical 4p to 45p, while Pauls & Whites were still wanted speculatively at 91p, a gain of 3p.

After a mention here, Barr & Stroud closed 10p to the good at 149p. Other second-liners to feature included Johnson Matthey, up 10p to 317p, Newmans Industries 4p to 34p and Vantons 3p to 83p.

Building industry shares again managed to shake off their background gloom and notable were Travis & Arnold, firmer by 6p to 83p, Marchwiel 4p to 118p on continuing bid talk, Istock Johnsons 4p to 78p and, ahead of figures due next week, English China Clays which closed 3p to the good at 176p.

Through movements were generally small, shipping shares attracted interest, notably in the oil tankers. With a whale added 6p to 65p, Tricatrol were a point behind at 106p.

Elsewhere in the mining sector, most of the heavyweight gold issues lost 50p, or so, behind the metal price. But Selection Trust closed 15p ahead at 465p after some bullish Australian news.

With the possibility of a cut in base rates looming nearer, two of the four clearing banks went ahead by 5p. These were Lloyds at 215p and Barclays at 235p, but both National Westminster 228p and Midland 267p ended unchanged on the day.

Among overseas issues, Standard Chartered also put on 5p to 338p, but HK & Shanghai reacted from its recent gains to lose 1p to 366p.

the good at 400p, while the lapsing of the Travancore offer left Southern India 5p down to 40p.

Enthusiasts for Concentric jump in profits to a record £2.11m; hope for around £2.75m this year; and like the argument that the group has, among other things, a fifth of the world market for lubricating oil pumps used in diesel engines. At 36p, a 1976-77 peak, the yield is still a fair 3.3 per cent.

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Other good spots on the financial pitches had Gillett Brothers gaining 7p to 170p, Arbutnott Latham better by 5p to 120p and Prudential 10p to 125p, while Royal 28p. Equity & Law went even better adding 6p to 120p.

The possibility of a lower interest rate burden brought selective demand to properties where Hammerson "A" started 15p up to 325p. Chesterfield put on 4p to 145p, Bradford 3p to 121p and Land Securities 2p to 145p.

After encouraging results and a scalp, Ratners ended 4p ahead at 60p, while Esperanza put on 15p to 131p after earlier figures.

In breweries, Wolverhampton & Dudley saw some speculative demand to end several pence to the good at 119p in late trading, while Allied improved to 69p.

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Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.34. * Forecast.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord (and par value)	div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Birmingham Pallet (10p)	4.0	3.5	7.3	5.5	5.0	
Esperanza Trade (12.5p)	Int. 1.8	1.6	16.3	—	4.54	
Katner's (Jewellers) (10p)	0.83	0.68	11.3	—	1.34	
H. Samuel (25p)	1.1	1.0	31.1	—	5.3	
John Waddington (25p)	Int. 2.1	2.1	15.2	6.45	5.95	
Winterbottom Trust	2.15	1.32	4.3	5.3	3.5	

Waddington more than doubles at half way

By Adrienne Gleeson

John Waddington, the Leeds-based manufacturer of games and packaging, has produced its highest-ever annual results. Profits for the 28 weeks to mid-October topped the £2.2m mark against the depressed £821,000 of the corresponding period last year.

The directors expect to pay full-year dividends increased by the maximum to 9.5p a share, to reduce the disparity between the interim and final payments they have decided to increase the interim from 2.02p to 3.08p a share. The final will be consigned to sequence be reduced.

Sales in the first half year increased from £15.03m to

£18.73m, reflecting a successful performance by all major divisions. Demand for packaging products has been reasonably good, now that destocking has come to an end.

But on the publishing side demand has been very good indeed, with the games subsidiary doing well despite a big increase in competition. The Christmas card publishing subsidiary sold out of stock.

John Waddington is now stepping up spending on plant and buildings. It has allocated £1m extra, which will come from existing cash reserves.

The money is to be spent on several small projects rather than on one major development.

Baker Perkins steps up holding in US subsidiary

Plant and machinery maker Baker Perkins Holdings has strengthened its holding in Baker Perkins Inc of the United States from 7.16 to about 8.3 per cent.

This was brought about by buying 134,000 more shares in BPI from members or relatives of the Conrad W. Petersen family at \$10.35 a share.

Baker Perkins Holdings also plans to bring about a full merger of BPI with a subsidiary of EPH under which minority holders in BPI stock

would also receive \$10.35 for each share.

In its latest results for the half-year to September 30 last reported last month, BPH pre-tax profits strode ahead from £1.5m to £3.5m. These were better than in the record £4.45m made in 1975-76.

Turnover rose 15 per cent to over £38m thanks chiefly to the United Kingdom companies and their exports. Overseas manufacturing had a 17 per cent rise in sales to £14.3m.

Swissair set to rally after 1975 downturn**US group to take a 14pc stake in Anchor**

The board of Anchor Chemical has agreed that Sartomer Industries Inc will subscribe for 400,000 new ordinary shares in Anchor at 45p a share. Bank of England permission has been granted.

The share issue representing 14 per cent of the Anchor capital as enlarged, will further the existing relationship between Sartomer and Anchor". Mr H. K. Justi, president of Sartomer will be invited to join the Anchor board.

Bid approach lifts Kode Int shares

A jump of 8p to 57p in the shares of Kode International greeted the news of a bid approaching. At 57p the group is valued at £1.8m.

The board, headed by Mr Colin Banks—the founder who regained the chair last April—advises shareholders to do nothing until there is a further announcement.

BCA plans to bid for Nationwide Leisure

British Car Auction Group is to bid for Nationwide Leisure, which owns undeveloped property and has interests ranging from caravan sites to a pawn-broking chain in Scotland.

The terms of one BCA share for every three Nationwide value each share at 9.8p and the group at £618,000.

The offer is being made with the knowledge of Nationwide's

chairman, and a board meeting will be called on Friday to consider it.

Family sidesteps

Coral Leisure

The Chandler family, controlling shareholders in Walthamstow Stadium, has outflanked Coral Leisure Group in the fight to own Walthamstow Stadium. This came in the news that GRA Property Trust, which ran into financial problems through its involvement in property, has sold its one-third interest in Walthamstow to the Chandlers for more than £400,000.

The directors expect record profits this year to go against the £919,000 of 1975-76 and the old peak of £1.08m the year before.

Expansion continues, and in March the group plans to open its first branch in Europe at Amsterdam.

C. T. Bowring

C. T. Bowring is forming a new company, C. T. Bowring Professional Indemnity, to operate at once as a Lloyd's Broker. The whole 1976 earnings are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.34. * Forecast.

over of about 350m francs a year.—AP-DJ.

Franc impedes Sandoz advance

Swiss chemical group Sandoz AG reports 1976 earnings in line with 1975's 145m francs and 1974's 185m francs. Turnover was about 4 per cent above 1975's 3,900m francs, the group added in Basle.

Sales, which had advanced strongly in the opening half year as stocks were rebuilt, especially in dyestuffs and chemicals, developed only slowly in the second six months. The dear Swiss franc also continued to be a problem.

The group is countering this with only "modest" new investment in Switzerland and concentration on expansion abroad, particularly in the United States.

Recent takeovers of Northrup King and Chicago Dietrich will raise the American share of group turnover from 18 per cent to 26 per cent this year.

Dyestuffs raised turnover last year by 14 per cent but profits failed to return to pre-1974 levels. The bulk of these products are Swiss made in dear francs.—Reuter.

Overseas

The bigger 1976 earnings arose both from a surprisingly good traffic increase and cost savings.

In 1975 Swissair's gross profit fell from 220m to 195m francs. Net profits dropped from 35m to 25m francs.—Reuter.

French computer link-up

Cap-Sogeti computer services group has bought a 51 per cent stake in the Bossard Group. Bossard specializes in public relations and advertising. Cap-Sogeti is the biggest French concern in the field, and the enlarged group will have a turn-

with associates bought 15,400 GBP at 75p.

BRICKHOUSE DUDLEY

Brickhouse Dudley, manufacturers and distributors of drainage products for the building and civil engineering industry, has purchased the pattern equipment and goodwill for cash, of A. C. Woodrow & Co of Beckenham, Kent.

WOLVERHAMPTON & MERCIER

On December 31, the new Wolverhampton & Mercier Building Society came into being. The result of a merger between four long-established and reputable building societies—Wolverhampton Building Society, Mercier Building Society of Wednesbury, Bellington Building Society of Liverpool and the Midland Permanent Building Society of Cradley Heath—the society begins life under its own name with assets in excess of £100m.

H. SAMUEL

After 11 months of current year, board expects results for year-end will be "satisfactory" and will justify a final dividend by maximum. First gross interim raised from 1.5p to 1.6p.

WHITECROFT-HANSON

The stake of 25,000 shares in Whitecroft referred to yesterday was not bought by Hanson Trust, but by Lavington & Crukshank, brokers to Whitecroft. It bought 20,000 at 120p for associates, and 5,000 for discretionary investment clients.

PHOENIX ASSURANCE

Net new annual premiums for 1976 were £11.6m (£10m), in addition, single premiums were £3.9m (£1.8m). New annuities £23.1m (£10.1m). New same sum assured, £1.94m, an increase of 24 per cent.

PLESSEY

Third quarter figures 1976-77 to be announced on Thursday, January 27.

MONTFORT (KNITTING MILLS)

Stake of Master Securities and Mr Raphael Djajongly in ordinary shares increased from 14.55 per cent to 18.4 per cent.

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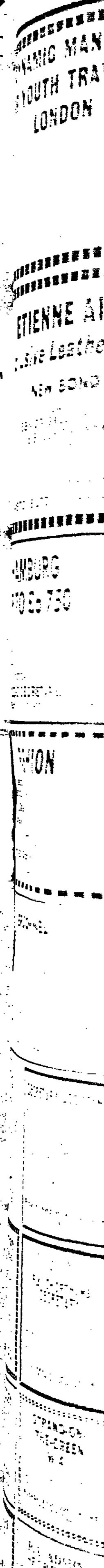
Stock Exchange Prices

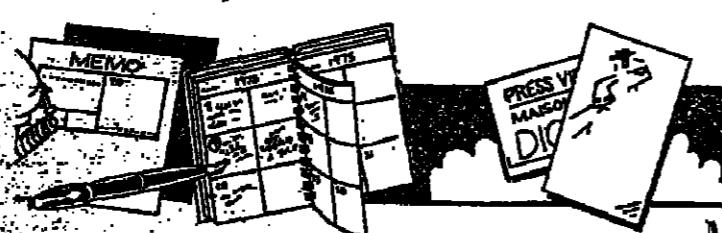
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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

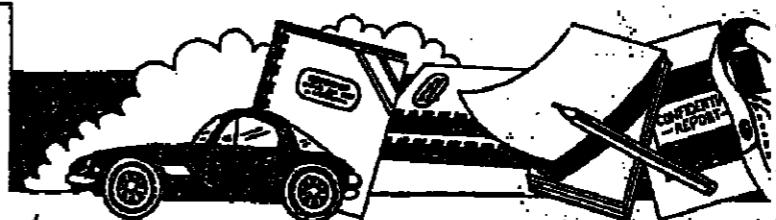
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BIRTHS

ATWELL—On Jan. 3, to Francis
and George, a daughter,

Steph. —On 1st January, to
John and Andrew David

WATER—On 1st January, to
John and Dorothy, a son

CARROLL—On 1st January, to
John and Dorothy, a son

HILL—On 1st January, to
John and Richard, a son

KELING—On January 3rd, at
Westgate Park, Cardif, to Mary

McLellan—On January 3rd, at
Westgate Park, Cardiff, to

David and Linda, a daughter

MARSH—On Jan. 1st, to Valerie

and Richard, a son

NEAME—On 2nd Dec., 1976, to
Simon of West College, Dun-

ken, a daughter, Emily.

ODD—On 1st January, to
Amanda (nee Davies) and Ham-

phie, a daughter, Tara.

GODFREY—On January 1st, to
John and Anne, a son, Alexan-

RDCROSE—On 1st December,

1976, in Dorking, Surrey, to

Burgess, a brother, Nicholas

Amelia, Timothy and Tamzin

—On 1st January, to John and Stephen

HAMILTON—On January 4th, in

the Birmingham University Hospi-

tal—On 1st January, to Chris-

tof, a daughter, Elizabeth

HODGES—On Jan. 4th, to

John and Evelyn, a son, Julian

—On 1st January, to John and

Stephanie, a daughter, Emily.

HODGSON—On 1st January, to

John and Barbara, a son, Adam

HORN—On 1st January, to

John and Barbara, a son, Edward

—On 1st January, to John and

Susan, a daughter, Emily.

HORN—On 1st January, to

John and Barbara, a son, Edward

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